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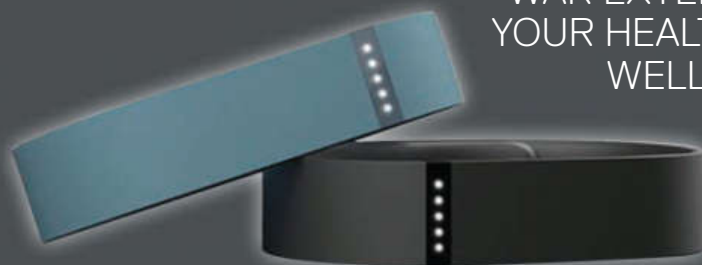
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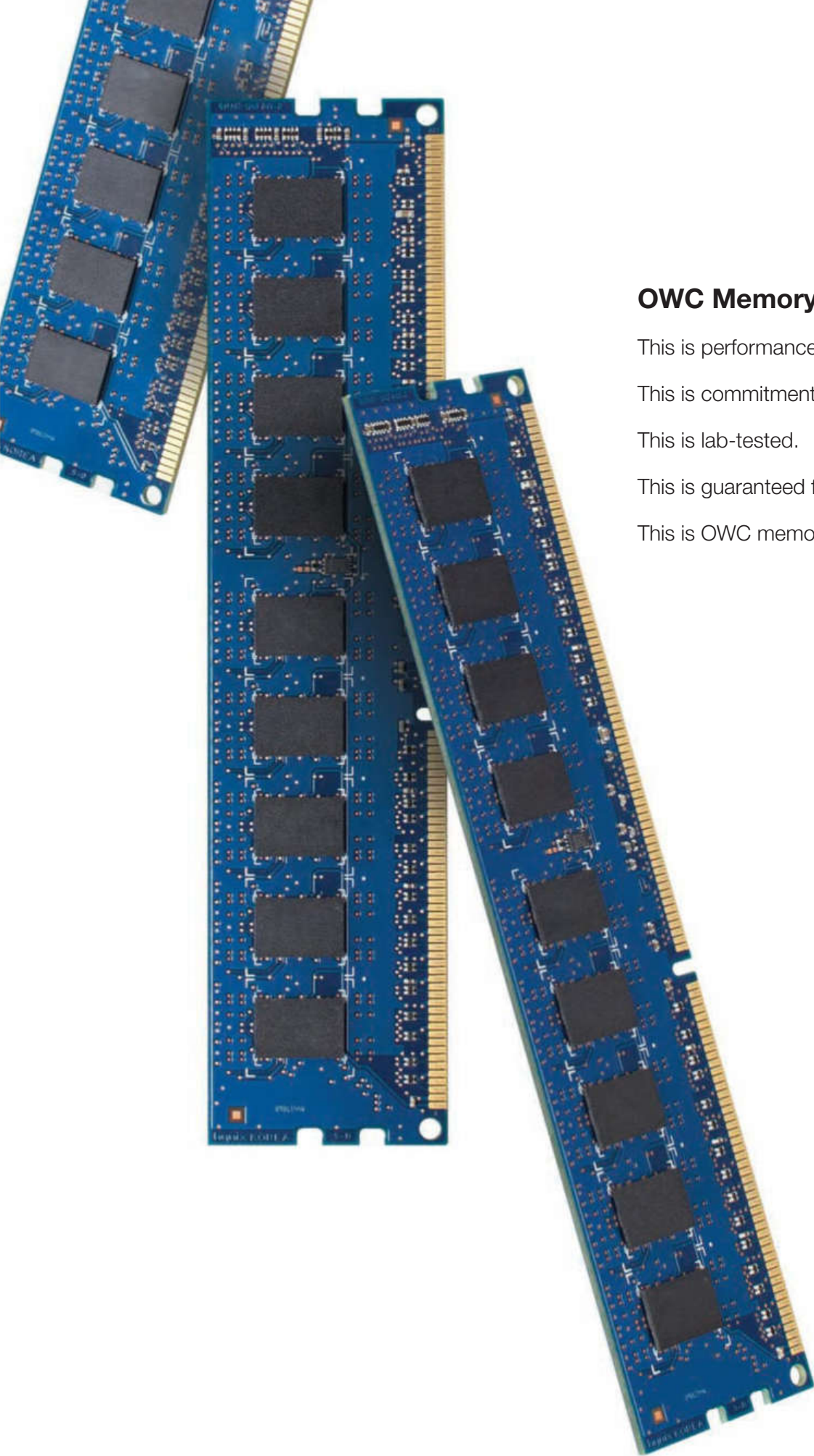
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Apple has won the battle for your music, movies and TV. But the next battle is personal – your health and well-being is the next technology battleground. Anthony Caruana looks at the world of health and fitness tech.

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Apple finally launched Music on 30 June, and it was everything we expected it to be (plus a few surprises thrown in for good measure).



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EL CAPITAN

Apple's newest operating system for notebooks and desktops might be touted as a minor upgrade focusing on stability and performance. But Jason Snell finds there's much more to this landmark release.



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Fit for purpose

I'm very blessed to be the editor of this great magazine. I get to look at lots of cool tech, meet with interesting people, travel the world and interact with some of the most passionate and knowledgeable readers of any publication I've worked on over the last decade or so.

But once a year I get to write about something I've become extremely passionate about – health and fitness. Like a reformed smoker, I'm a passionate advocate for eating well and exercising regularly. And this month I get to write about all of the exercise, health and fitness tech I've had the pleasure of trying out.

This is an area of technology that has only just started evolving. If you've worked in corporate IT, you'll be familiar with the Gartner Hype Cycle. It describes the adoption of new technology in five stages: a technology trigger, a peak of inflated expectations, a trough of disillusionment, enlightenment and, finally, a plateau of productivity. I think fitness tech is on the journey up to the peak of inflated expectations – wait until we plummet to the pit of disillusionment!

We are some way from getting real benefits from fitness technology, with the many companies involved in this nascent market the root cause of the disillusionment. It feels a lot like the late 1980s when the battle was fought

between Microsoft and Apple over the software on your desktop computer. At the moment, the health technology market is really a platform battle. Which is dumb as it's not about the hardware and software as much as it's about our data.

As we roll out of winter into spring, it's a good time to think about a well-managed exercise and well-being program.

Our US-based colleague Jason Snell takes a look at El Capitan and Adam Turner lets you know how you can tune into your tunes while taking a swim or relaxing in the bath in his round-up of waterproof sound gear.

As well as the usual reviews, tips and help we cover every month, I'd love every reader to take a few minutes to look online at the entrants to our monthly iSnap competition. Apple has only recently been recognising iPhone photographers in its ads. But we've been doing it for a much longer period and there are some awesome images online.

Pop over to macworld.com.au/isnap and enjoy the show.

Have a great month!

STAFF PICKS

What app is your biggest time waster?



ANTHONY CARUANA

Words with Friends. I play it whenever I have a spare moment – often with 10 to 12 games going at the same time.



MADELEINE SWAIN

Solitaire, but I'm now a bit more disciplined and only let myself play on the exercise bike version at the gym.



JAMUNA RAJ

Instagram... Endless, mindless scrolling.



MONIQUE BLAIR

Tumblr. Hours upon hours of house, food and travel inspiration.

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HAVE YOUR SAY

LETTER OF THE MONTH

THE IMPORTANCE OF BACKING UP

After reading Adam Turner's article on Backup and Recovery in August's *Macworld Australia*, I was prompted to 'pull out the keyboard' and put pen to paper.

I'm retired and mix with a broad group of people who, like me, enjoy their iPhones and iPads. Most of these similarly retired people use them at the base level of checking emails, SMS and photos. Because I've been a total Mac user since the LC 2, I've enjoyed all of the upgrades that Apple offers.

What surprises me about these people who thoroughly enjoy their iPhones and iPads is the fact that about 90 percent of them use their devices on their PC platforms. They love the ease of use of Apple's operating system for devices, yet panic at the thought of moving away from their PCs. But their habits of backing up these devices is met with fear.

At all levels on both the Mac and PC platforms, the need to back up is ultimately important. The loss of any data like music, photos or documents is terrifying to anyone, yet people are happy to remain ignorant about backing up.

One example would be someone who uses their iPhone to store everything. Not unusual. If then they

happen to lose their iPhone, disaster rears its ugly head. Yes, it's happened because these people have never bothered to update, plug into their PC and secure (almost) all of their data.

Plugging iPhones and iPads into home computers and at least doing a simple backup and update via iTunes helps enormously. When I ask how long since they've updated the OS on their phone, I've heard the words, "Oh, I've never bothered with that. It works, I'm used to it and I like it the way it is."

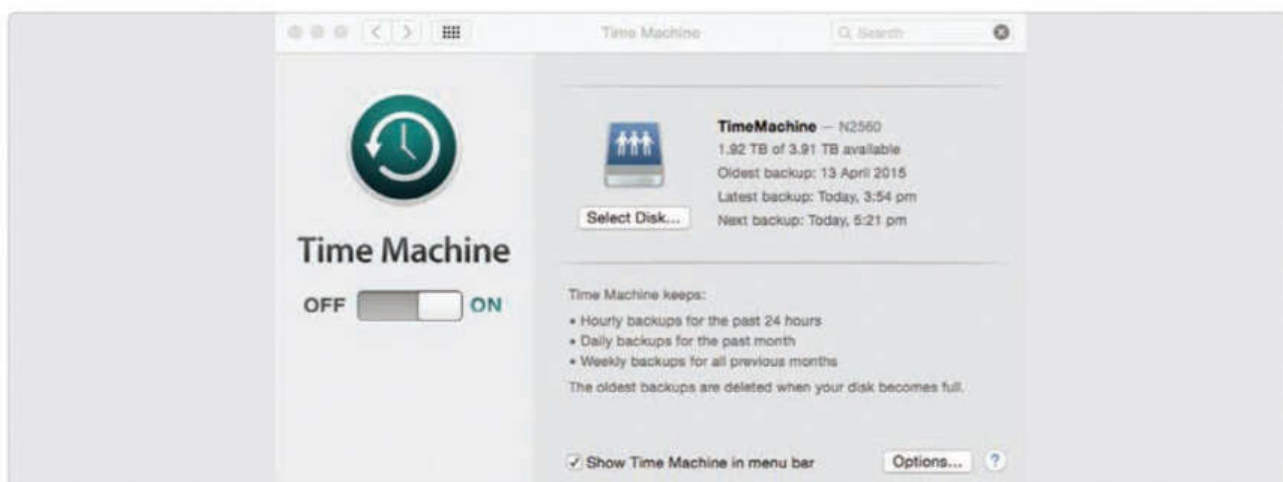
People don't understand how important, yet simple, backups are. For PCs or for Macs.

Brad Smith

Spot on, Brad. The greatest advocates for backing up your data are folks who have lost some data.

Behind every well-planned and executed backup strategy is a tale of woe in my experience. For me, it was the loss of about three months of photos when I didn't follow my own advice and didn't look into why my backup system wasn't working.

Maybe you should buy your PC-toting iOS-using friends a *Macworld Australia* subscription for their next birthday or Christmas!



iCal MISBEHAVING?

For years I have been using iCal to both plan my days and also keep a record of events. If someone asks me about any day as early as February 2007 I can probably tell them what I was doing then (and, yes, I do export the Calendar Archive for backup every few weeks – it is up to 12MB now).

But during the last few months I have been experiencing irritations with iCal. I usually create an event and then Get Info about it to type in start and stop times more precise than the nearest quarter hour. In the past, the times that I typed always stuck, but in recent months the event spontaneously changes to the nearest hour and then I have to type the correct times again.

Perhaps if I upgraded from OSX 10.8.5 and iCal 6.0 the problem may go away, but it is annoying when something that has worked fine for so long just becomes troublesome for no obvious reason. Perhaps changes in the way that iCal syncs via iCloud have made the difference?

This data has been useful when my son borrows my car and runs a red light or exceeds the speed limit – when the infringement notice arrives I can tell from my iCal data that it wasn't me!

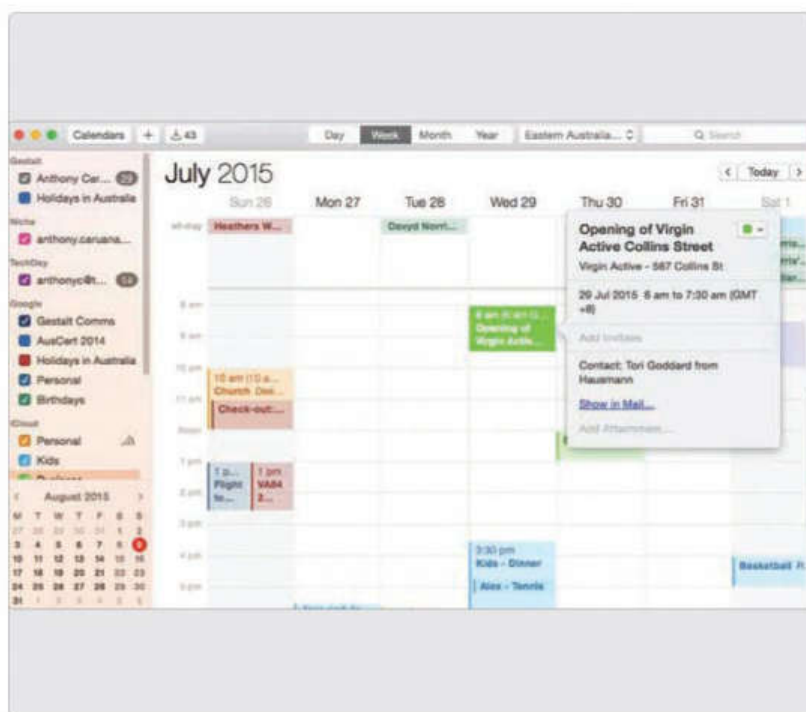
Graeme Costin

Thanks Graeme.

And what a great use of your calendar – to get out of speeding fines! Have you ever added an entry retrospectively to send the demerit points away? Just kidding.

That's a strange one. I've not experienced the same thing when using iCal, although that was some time ago, as I moved to a non-Apple calendar application some time ago that better suits my workflow.

Hopefully, another reader will chime in with an answer next month or you could put the question on the Macworld Australia forums (macworld.com.au/forums) to see if anyone else has similar experience and a solution.



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■ Comments on stories or Forum posts on www.macworld.com.au are also eligible for the prize.

■ We reserve the right to edit letters and probably will.

■ Letters of fewer than 200 words are given preference.



This month's prize to the *Macworld Australia* reader who has submitted what we think is the most interesting letter is a WeMo Switch – a home automation device that lets you switch off electronics from your Android and iOS smart device via the free WeMo app. The WeMo switch retails for \$69.95

The WeMo Switch lets you turn electronic devices on or off from anywhere. It uses your existing home Wi-Fi network to provide wireless control of TVs, lamps, stereos, heaters, fans and more.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Letter of the month 1. Instructions on how to enter form part of these conditions of entry. 2. To enter send tips or queries to editor@macworld.com.au with a subject header of "Letter to the Editor". Entries will be judged by the editorial staff of *Macworld Australia*. The judges' decision in relation to any aspect of the competition is final and binding on every person who enters. No correspondence will be entered into. Chance plays no part in determining the winner(s). Each entry will be individually judged based on its degree of interest. 4. Employees, their immediate families and agencies associated with this competition are not permitted to enter. 5. The Promoter accepts no responsibility for late or misdirected entries. 6. The best entry/entries as determined by the judges will win the prize(s). 7. The Promoter is neither responsible nor liable for any change in the value of the prize occurring between the publish date and the date the prize(s) is claimed. 8. The prize(s) is not transferable and will not be exchanged for cash. 9. The winner(s) will be notified by email. 10. All entries become the property of the Promoter. 11. The collection, use and disclosure of personal information provided in connection with this competition is governed by the Privacy Notice. 12. The Promoter is Niche Media Pty Ltd of 142 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205 Ph 03 9948 4900, (ABN 13 064 613 529).

HOT STUFF

A selection of Apple, Mac and iOS news from Macworld.com.au

APPLE REVAMPS WEBSITE – NO MORE STORE

Apple has redesigned its website, removing the familiar 'Store' link from the top menu, as well as making some typeface and subtle colour changes.

While things may not look all that different, Apple has chosen to get rid of its separate online shop entirely. However, you can still go to apple.com.au/store if you prefer to make a direct leap.

There have been 'Buy Now' buttons on Apple's product pages for some time. As you browse and choose products, however, they'll be added to your 'Product Bag' – apparently Apple doesn't like the more common term 'Shopping Cart' either!

So, why has Cupertino decided to merge its virtual storefront and warehouse after all these years? An Apple

spokesperson told TechCrunch that it's "to give customers one simple destination to learn and buy without navigating between two different sites".

The website changes were made without any downtime, avoiding the familiar 'We'll be back soon' page everyone knew was a sign something new was coming.

MICROSOFT ADDING NEW APPS FOR MAC, iOS AND APPLE WATCH

Microsoft continues to make inroads into the Apple-verse with the recent update to Outlook, which adds new functionality to Apple Watch, as well as the release of a new content creation app called Sway and the availability of its Translator app for Apple Watch.

Translator lets users translate to and from 50 different languages via text using

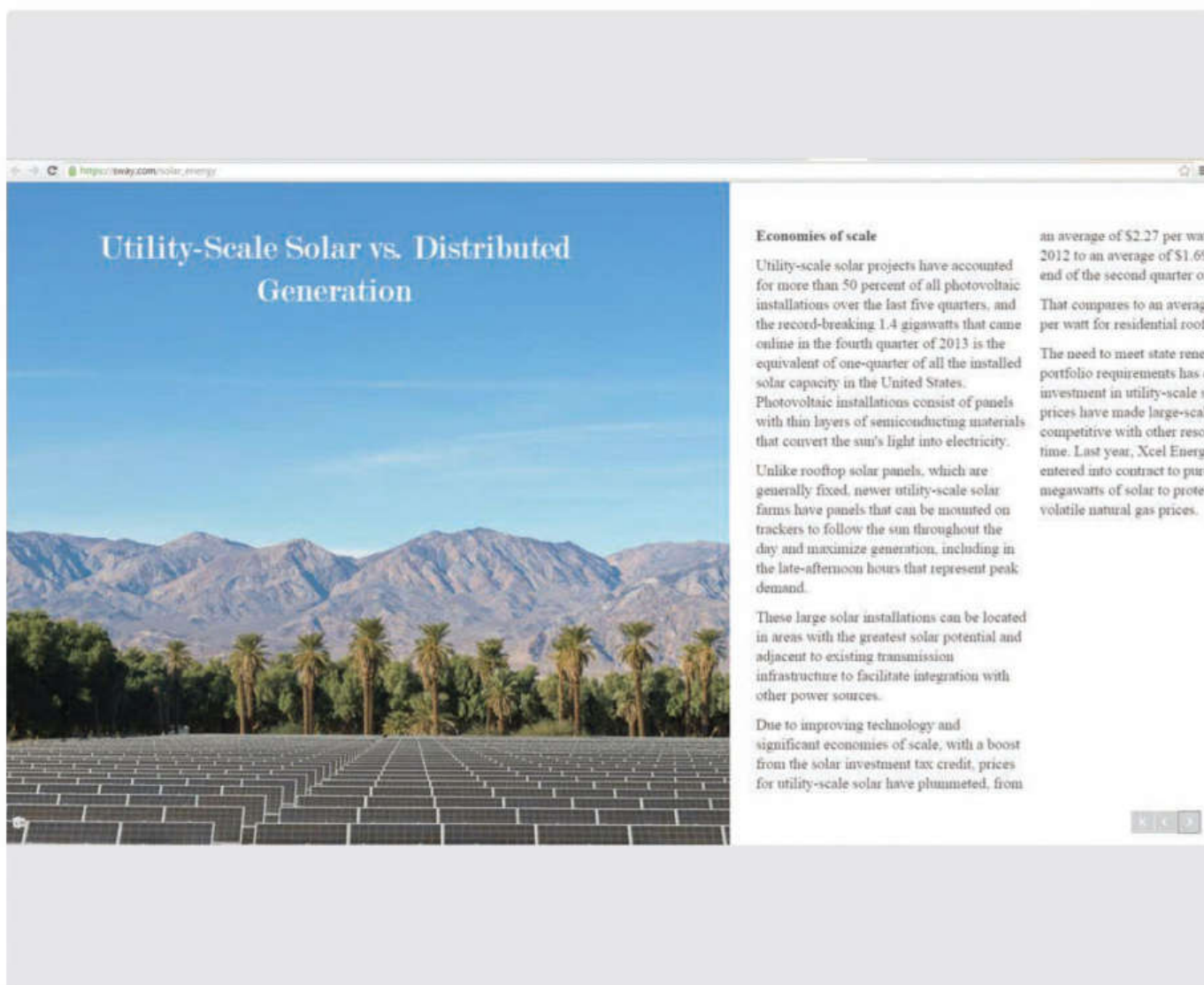
voice recognition. The app also lets users go back and view their recently translated phrases, and pin frequently used translations, so they have quick access to key phrases.

Outlook for Apple Watch delivers push notifications and shows preview versions of unread messages so you can reply, archive, delete, flag, mark as read and schedule messages to reappear later. Messages sent from Apple Watch have the appropriate signature attached to them, as well.

The Outlook app for Apple Watch also includes a rundown of everything that's on a user's calendar for the day. There's also a Glance included with the app that shows users how many unread messages they have, along with the next event on their calendar.

Sway is a difficult application to describe. Rather than taking the siloed





approach Office has traditionally used, with text, spreadsheets and graphics being developed in different applications, Sway 'documents' can contain almost anything.

The content dynamically realigns, resizes and moves depending on the device from which it's being viewed.

Sway documents can be created on the web, OS X or using iOS apps. Content can be easily shared online or via cloud storage services.

If you've been a long-time watcher of Microsoft's efforts, you'll know it's been pushing towards this idea for many years

through object embedding and other mechanisms. Sway looks like all that work is now coming to fruition.

SWIFT TRANSLATED TO MANDARIN IN OPEN SOURCE PROJECT

Jie Liang, a student at BeiHang University in Beijing, has led an open source project to translate Apple's Swift language to Mandarin. The project was completed in July after a year's worth of open source development, Bloomberg has reported. The translated version has been accessed

more than two million times on GitHub.

Liang saw an opportunity to "synchronise China and the world". With modern coding dominated by English-based natural language programming protocols, developers who can't speak English are at a disadvantage, as code written in other languages is more difficult to market.

With English as the de facto standard of the global coding community and Apple's commanding presence in the mobile app marketplace, the Swift translation could open the door to a huge number of iOS and OS X programmers.

HOT STUFF

A selection of Apple, Mac and iOS news from Macworld.com.au



IS THE APPLE WATCH KILLING THE TRADITIONAL WATCH MARKET?

The Apple Watch is either a hit or a failure, depending on whom you ask, but one thing's for certain: June was a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad month for the traditional watch industry.

Data from market research firm NPD Group shows traditional watch sales in the US dropped by 14 percent in June 2015 compared to the previous June. This is the

biggest year-over-year drop in watch sales since 2008.

Watches in the US\$100 to US\$149.99 price range took the biggest hit, falling by 24 percent with the whole sub-US\$1000 watch declining in June.

Such a fall in traditional watch sales may suggest that the Apple Watch is starting to affect the traditional watch market. In Apple's last quarterly earnings call, CEO Tim Cook stated that Apple Watch sales increased in June, contrary to media reports.

NPD cites market saturation of

"lower-priced fashion brands" as another factor contributing to the sales decline.

On the other hand, comments from Apple's suppliers suggest that Apple Watch sales may not be as great as hoped. Also, Apple refuses to provide sales numbers for the Apple Watch, which means that sales estimates are, at best, educated guesses.

Either way, it's too hard to draw conclusions based on one month's worth of sales data. If sales bounce back, June's drop-off was probably a blip on the radar. But if the declines continue, well, maybe there's something to this Apple Watch thing.


UK BANS CD RIPPING

The UK's High Court has ruled that copying music from your personal CD collection to iTunes violates copyright law – and so does backing up your music library to an external hard drive or cloud storage service. TorrentFreak asked the UK's Intellectual Property Office (IPO) if the law really means that ripping a CD to iTunes is illegal. The answer: yes, yes it is.

"It is now unlawful to make private copies of copyright works you own, without permission from the copyright holder – this includes format shifting from one medium to another," a UK IPO spokesperson told the site.

At some point, Apple may have to go to court to defend iTunes, because it seems to very clearly violate the new law. Time Machine, Apple Music and

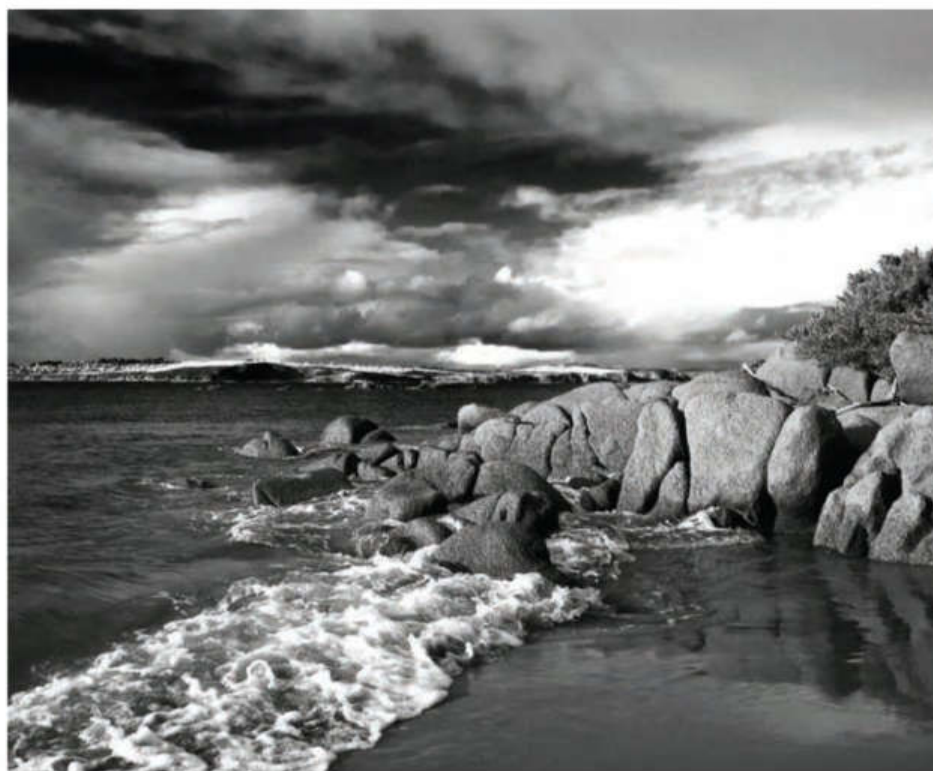
iTunes Match are also now illegal, because they make copies of your music files.

The UK Government is apparently not thrilled with the High Court's decision. The IPO office told TorrentFreak that the Government is "carefully considering the implications of the ruling and the available options before deciding any future course of action". 



Cape Woolamai

The wizard of Woolamai without the winged monkeys...



Baptist minister and amateur photographer David Enticott enjoys taking photos at sunrise or sunset, when everything turns gold or orange coloured. With a holiday house close to the beach, he has plenty of opportunities to walk to the end of the road and see the world at sunset.

His family recently bought a holiday house at Phillip Island, off Victoria's rugged south coast. On a walk around Cape Woolamai, he noticed that the late afternoon light was perfect for taking pictures.

"I always try to shoot with the sun directly behind my back, so that the photos are able to pick up the best possible light. As I started taking shots with the iPhone 6, I also noticed that the clouds looked like they had been taken from an old movie, like *The Wizard of Oz*. I stood in the freezing cold water and took about 30 photos in quick succession. I wanted to get a contrast between the waves and the clouds."

Enticott used the Noir effect that comes with the camera app on the iPhone and the Photos app on his iMac to play around

with the light, hoping to give the scene a bit more drama and impact.

"I've got quite a few editing apps on my phone such as PhotoToaster, Camera!, Camera +, Analog and Snapseed. My favourite is Brushstroke, which allows you to turn photographs into paintings," adds Enticott.

"I have been buying *Macworld Australia* every month for the last five years; iSnap would be my favourite section because you are able to see the different forms of expression and creativity that people have."

In iSnap we're on the lookout for some of the best photographs being taken with iOS devices. Submit your favourite original shots to macworld@macworld.com.au for your chance to be featured in the online iSnap gallery www.macworld.com.au/isnap. Each month's winner will win a prize and appear on this page!

This month's prize is a Selfie Tripod and Extension Pack by PADACS.

PADACS specialises in the design and development of accessories for the iPad and iPhone. Many of us love taking selfies, but it can be awkward trying to pose, hold the phone and press the button all at the same time. The new Keep Calm and Selfie On Remote by PADACS iPhone mobile accessories, makes easy work of taking the perfect selfie or group photo. It uses Bluetooth technology to pair with your iPhone, allowing you to remotely trigger the camera and capture your selfie with ease. To see the full range of products visit www.padacs.com





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THE HEALTH KICK

BY ANTHONY CARUANA

If you're of a certain age you'd remember the 1970s. That's when the jogging craze really took off. All you needed was a T-shirt, shorts and pair of rubber-soled shoes and you were on your way to marathon stardom – or a gentle plod around the block.

By the 80s we were in the aerobics era. Jane Fonda ruled the VCR with her series of videos and Olivia Newton John told us to get physical. And while gyms and exercise studios reaped the benefits, the activities we performed at those times didn't actually look that different from the sports played in ancient Greece 2500 years ago when Pheidippides ran back and forth between Marathon and Athens before dropping dead.

During the 80s and 90s, sports science took some massive leaps and bounds. As drug testing became stricter and tolerance for performance enhancing drugs became lower, sports science needed to look for new ways to extract maximum performance from athletes.

Over the last couple of years, something has changed significantly. All those improvements made by sports scientists have become more accessible to all of us through technology. It's a bit like the car industry. When the first sat-nav devices were available in cars they were an option costing several thousand dollars. Today, we all carry an up-to-date set of maps in our pockets.

Almost always, great scientific and technical leaps become commoditised. And the same is happening in fitness and health. And much of this has been driven by several technologies coming together at just the right time.

Bluetooth LE allows devices to transmit data to our iPhones and iPads with little impact to battery life. That data is being collected by cheap sensors that can use light to measure blood flow under the skin and the composition of our perspiration that is delivered to apps connected to cloud services that give access to all sorts of analytical tools that, until recently, were out of the reach of most of us.

For example, I recently went into a large retailer and purchased a blood pressure cuff for \$19 – it was on sale, reduced from \$39. Within minutes of opening the box I was able to measure blood pressure, save the data and share it.

It wasn't long ago that you needed a professional to do this sort of thing. And there are lots of other devices that measure almost anything you can think of.

WE'RE IN AN ECOSYSTEM WAR

The biggest challenge for anyone interested in health and fitness tech today is which ecosystem do you pick. Between Apple, Fitbit, Jawbone, Nike, Under Armour and many others, it's hard to know which platform is best.

This is our biggest gripe about the entire health and fitness tech world. Interoperability – which is what will deliver the most value to users – is still some distance away. A great example of this is the fracas between Apple and Fitbit.

There was a time when Apple stocked Fitbit's trackers online and in its retail stores. However, when Fitbit went public saying it wasn't planning to integrate with Apple's HealthKit because its customers weren't asking for the integration, Apple took Fitbit's products off the shelf.

Similarly, if you're a runner and like Nike's sport watch and its running app, integration with other exercise ecosystems like Under Armour's MyFitnessPal is difficult.

In other words, when you're looking for your health and fitness tech, you're not just buying hardware – you're investing in an ecosystem.

A LOOK IN APPLE'S WORLD

Over the last couple of years, Apple has been making a big push into the health and activity market. And, while the Apple Watch is the centrepiece of that endeavour, the real power is around HealthKit and the ecosystem of data sources Apple is trying to create.

On the iPhone, the Health app acts as a central receiving point from other apps that access the data collected by various apps and devices. For example, on my iPhone, several apps deliver data, and my Apple Watch and the sensors in the iPhone can be used to collect other information.

All of this is then collated and presented in various graphs and charts. However, Apple has seen fit to fracture this experience. With the arrival of the Apple Watch came the Activity app. And while it displays activity data in a different way with circular progress, it's tough to get a coherent picture of activity, a reasonably detailed view of diet with information about macros (carbohydrate, protein and fat consumption) and get a longitudinal view of exercise performance. Part of the challenge in using Apple's ecosystem is that it relies on other parties modifying their apps and making data available via the publicly available HealthKit APIs. But because the market is still evolving, many players are trying to lock consumers into their apps and hardware.

It's a bit like how content from Google's Play Store and Apple's iTunes Store is locked to specific apps or devices.

SOME OF THE OTHERS

Apple, of course, is not the only game in town. Over the last couple of years, we've had the chance to use several other ecosystems and tried dozens of apps, trackers and other accessories.

Here's what we've learned.

While it's the hardware that forces us to part with our hard earned in the store, it's the software and data where we really interact. For example, we used a couple of different Jawbone trackers over a long period. Ultimately, we gave up on Jawbone because of several hardware issues. But what we really missed was its app. Despite having the same sorts of sensors and communications as other similar devices, its app made it really easy to track sleep and activity.

So, we didn't miss the hardware when we moved on – it was the app we really missed.

Since then, we've tried out a bunch of different trackers, looking closely at the ecosystem. What we've found is the market is still too fractured to get a complete picture of everything around your health and well-being.

The closest we've come has been MyFitnessPal. Of all the apps we've looked at, it has the most complete and user-friendly food database. If you're planning to track calories (or kilojoules – the nutritional world seems stuck on this imperial measure for some reason) and macros, it makes the task easy.

In addition, it integrates with a huge number of other fitness trackers and services. So, if you use Strava for tracking your bike rides, the data from Strava automatically syncs with MyFitnessPal. And tracking from other apps and devices such as Fitbit is also integrated.

Fitbit is probably Apple's biggest challenger in this space. It has a number of trackers to suit most budgets, as well as its Aria Scales and its app reflects a lot of refinement through years of experience.

GETTING SOCIAL

Many emerging sports are able to increase interest for both spectators and athletes by the use of social media and online platforms for advertising and training. One sport that has grabbed the bull by both horns is roller derby. Lisa 'Basement Staxx' Banks competes in a league in Adelaide. The name of the league – the Murder City Roller Girls.

"Roller derby is one of the fastest growing sports for women worldwide, and there are mixed gender, men's and junior leagues popping up, too," says Banks.

Games, or bouts, are played in two halves on a flat track. Each half of the game is made up of several two-minute jams – competitions where five team members from each team line up on the track. One member of each team wears a star on their helmet – they are the jammers and the only players who can score points. The other four players are blockers – their job is to legally stop the opposition jammer from scoring points.

The game has rules, but is quite physical. Blockers can be sent to the sin bin for 30 seconds for infractions.



As it's an emerging sport, Banks says online forums are an important way for skaters to connect and learn more about the sport.

"We generally use Facebook groups, pages and online forums," she says.

"In terms of learning about gameplay strategy, and getting tips from the best athletes, you can watch WFTDA (Women's Flat Track Derby Association) bout footage or there's a great Tumblr blog called 'You Should Be Watching More Roller Derby Footage'. The WFTDA is the international governing body of women's flat track roller derby."

For training, Banks, or Staxx as she's known in derby circles, has a couple of go-to sites.

"I use RollerDerbyAthletics.com. It's a website run by Booty Quake who's a coach, athlete and skater from Terminal City Rollergirls and has heaps of videos, workouts, meal plans and more to help build strength and increase agility. More importantly, it's derby specific, which means that all exercises on there are relevant to the sport."

As for the nickname?

"Everyone in roller derby has their own nickname that they use on the track," she says. "I think the idea behind this came from having an alter ego as your derby persona or creating a clever pun or play on words with your name. My derby name is Basement Staxx – Staxx for short. I love dance music and with all the falls that happen in derby, thought it was a clever play on words that reflected me and my personality."

BEGINNERS

Let's say you have a goal to be able to improve your aerobic endurance, lose some weight and tone up a little. There's a lot of advice out there and lots of complicated diets and systems to choose from. But they all come down to one simple truth – your metabolism needs a certain amount of fuel to keep itself operating.

If you supply too much fuel, your body stores it for a time when you under supply it. If you don't provide it with enough of the right fuel, then you'll feel weak and lethargic and put weight on.

That's a simplification of all the complex, metabolic processes going on in your body, but it's enough for a starting point.

The three apps we'd suggest starting with are MyFitnessPal, one of the many Couch to 5k (C25K) apps and a 7-minute workout app. All are free from the App Store. It doesn't really matter which one of the C25K and 7-minute workout apps you choose, as there's not a huge amount of difference between them. However, we suggest starting with MyFitnessPal and finding apps that integrate with it.

MyFitnessPal has a very comprehensive food database for easily tracking your calorie intake. It works with many exercise apps and automatically logs your calorie use, so you can easily track your ins and

outs. It also works with apps for sleep tracking, weight management and others.

INTERMEDIATE

The toughest part of any health and well-being program is ingraining it as a habit and a normal part of your day. That's why programs like C25K work well, as they take the planning and scheduling out of your hands. Pull some exercise clothes on, fire up the app and you're away.

But there may come a time when you want to know more and track things more closely.

At that point, you may want to move from using apps on your phone to other devices such as heart rate monitors, exercise tech such as cycling computers, watches and other wearables.

If you're into cycling, then the Strava app is a great tool and, if you spring for the premium package (US\$7.99 per month or US\$74.99 per year), then you can use the app with a wide variety of sensors, such as cadence monitors and heart rate straps.

My only suggestion is investing in a decent bike mount like the LIFEACTIV Bike + Bar Mount from LifeProof.

For runners, there are dozens of watches to choose from. We've been running with the Fitbit Surge recently. It has an integrated GPS and heart rate

monitor, so there's no need to wear a chest strap. However, I've spoken with some trainers, who note chest straps are more responsive and better able to track rapid changes in heart rate during interval training than wrist-based pulse trackers.

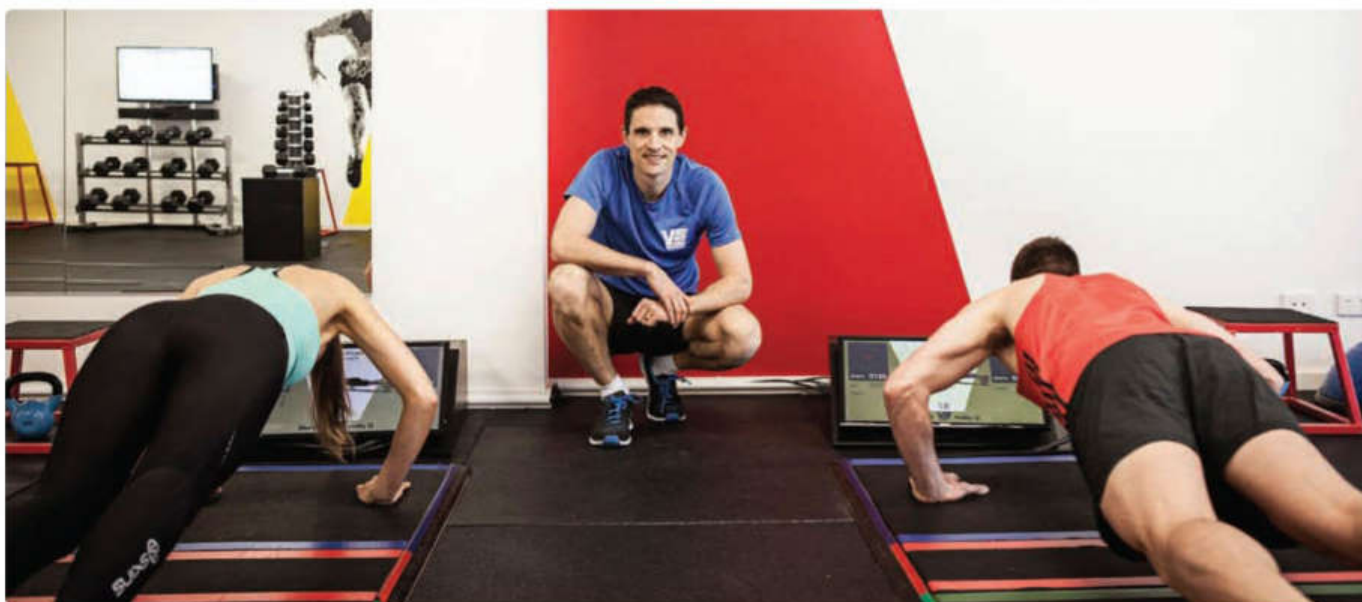
If you're looking at wearables, don't get too carried away with the hardware. The real benefits come from the software and the ability to look at the data to make adjustments to your exercise and nutrition.

ADVANCED

When it comes to tech for serious athletes, you can spend as much money as you like. There are smart garments, like the OMSignal Biometric smart shirt reviewed in Macworld Australia in May 2015 and others like the Athos and Hexoskin ranges. There are lots of other wearables and sensors available for tennis, golf, swimming and almost any other sport you can think of.

With this sort of technology, it's possible to make significant improvements on very technical parts of your sports performance. For example, there are devices that can be placed on a golf club or tennis racquet that provide data about your swing, so you can refine your action.

If you're particularly competitive this can make a difference to your performance.



THE FUTURE OF EXERCISE

There's obviously lots of technology that is designed for individuals. But what about the gym and other group exercise environments?

We recently visited Versus – an exercise studio in the bayside Melbourne suburb of Hampton East. Versus is a gamified gaming studio. By using sensors such as cameras and pressure-sensitive mats, two people can exercise in competition with each other.

It doesn't matter if one person is taller, faster or stronger than the other, as the system allows for individual differences and adjusts the exercise load on each person so they are evenly matched.

The system, developed by Versus founder Brad Bond with RMIT University, uses off the shelf cameras, sensors and screens. The magic is in the software that links all these together. For example, the equipment at a squat station is able to monitor the position of your back and your movement. If your form isn't quite right, the speakers and display give instructions on how to adjust so you perform the exercise correctly.

A few weeks ago, Virgin Active opened its newest exercise studio in Melbourne. If you haven't been in a commercial gym for

a few years, the difference between this new facility and those of yesteryear is astounding. With several different zones, each catering for the specific needs of different clients, the new Virgin Active on Collins Street even has an antigravity studio.

Your editor – who, it has to be said, is not the most agile of men and has a fear of heights – took part in a short session where he ended up upside-down, suspended from a hammock.

In addition, there's a pool, several different studios for different exercise classes and a spin studio with state-of-the-art bikes that can be calibrated for your specific fitness level.

Once calibrated, the instructor guides the class through different routines, moving from the easy green zone through to the harder red zone. The studio is also open between organised classes where the bikes can be programmed with different courses, such as those from the Tour de France, with a first person view projected onto the massive screen at the front of the room.

And, using Virgin's 'my Locker' service, you can track everything about your workout easily, as well as integrate with fitness trackers and social media.



FIVE ESSENTIAL APPS

All of these apps are free and available from the App Store. However, most have in-app purchases to unlock premium features.



STRAVA

Strava is probably the most popular cycling app around. As it works with lots of third-party sensors, it can be used by everyone from beginners to advanced trainers. It works with the iPhone's built-in GPS, so it can track how far you've ridden, as well as the elevation, speed and other data.



MYFITNESSPAL

With its integration to dozens of other exercise and health apps, MyFitnessPal, which is owned by sports apparel maker Under Armour, is probably the most extensive health and fitness ecosystem around at the moment. It integrates with almost every fitness tracker around and has an exhaustive food database that includes a barcode scanner to make it easy to enter your meals.



NIKE RUNNING

While we've mentioned Nike here, we could have easily mentioned Adidas, Garmin and several others, as they all offer similar functions, such as run tracking with GPS and interoperability with watches and other sensors. Like many other apps, there's a social element so you can share your runs to Facebook and Twitter.



7 MINUTES

The 7-minute workout is all about fitting a short exercise session in when you have a few spare minutes. You don't need any special equipment as all the exercises, like star jumps, bodyweight squats and push-ups, are based on your own movements. The app guides you through 30 seconds of each exercise with a short transition period between each exercise.



SPOTIFY

Why a music app? The great thing about Spotify for exercisers is there are a bunch of playlists where the beat frequency is at a pace you can work to. For example, if you're running and want a cadence of 140 steps per minute, the app can adjust to that so you can use the music to keep a constant pace. 🏃



WHAT TECH IS BEST?

Choosing the right technology can be really helpful in improving your health and well-being. However, the technology needs to complement your activity, making it easier, rather than getting in the way and making it more difficult.

Great tech is not a free ride to improved health and fitness. Even Ivan Drago in *Rocky IV*, with all the best resources the USSR had to offer couldn't beat Rocky Balboa, who trained with rocks in the snow!

The problem is when you start out you may have lots of enthusiasm, so you do a bunch of research and aim to get the best possible technology for your budget. The trouble is, it may deliver more data than you can reasonably use or be so complex it becomes a hindrance and not a help.

Our advice is to start simply and slowly add or replace gear that no longer suits you.

The good news is the cost of entry to using technology to support your health and fitness regime is free – all you need is your iPhone. Then you can build on that.



MAC GEMS

NEW SOFTWARE FROM THE MAC APP STORE



SPARKLE

WEB AND COMMUNICATIONS SOFTWARE

Sparkle
US\$80



Like a raw gemstone fresh from the mine, Sparkle's still a bit rocky from some angles. But with a few extra facets, it could really shine.

Sparkle sticks with a familiar, Pages-like look and feel. What it lacks in style, Sparkle's interface makes up for in clarity and ease of use.

Sparkle eschews premade templates. It lets you place text, images and other page elements wherever you like, aligned with an easily adjusted grid. But Sparkle also offers a library of useful, premade items, including dropdown menus and a photo gallery viewer. It's easy to populate and style them however you like – although I did notice that when I resized or repositioned a menu, some items would sometimes spontaneously flip from 'visible' to 'hidden' without any apparent reason.

I found Sparkle's layout engine powerful and pleasant. I enjoyed its ability to align objects by their midpoints as well as their edges, and to evenly distribute the space between multiple objects. Most importantly, I never felt like I had to fight with it to achieve what I wanted.

I also liked Sparkle's ability to easily add common elements, like a top nav bar with a logo and menu, to every page on your site, just by checking a box in its inspector pane. You can lock elements to the bottom of your page. I frankly could have hugged

the folks behind Sparkle when I discovered its ability to incorporate third-party web fonts.

Sparkle's live preview feature worked well, instantly applying changes made within the program to the page as rendered in my browser. It'll open your page in Safari, Firefox or Chrome automatically and give you a local address to preview your work on any device connected to your network.

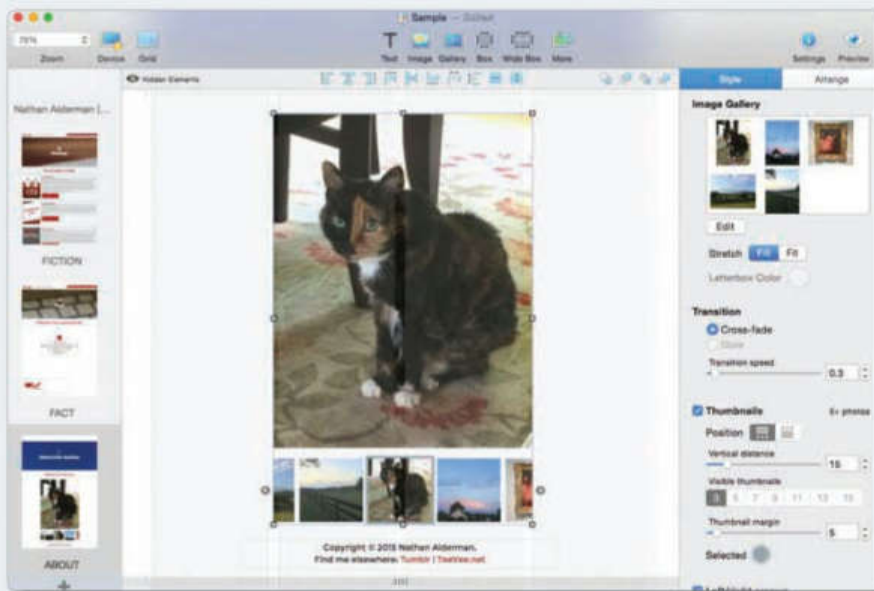
Sparkle gets so many things right that I found its stumbles surprising. It lacks or limits your ability to adjust some basic CSS styles. You won't find any controls for padding and you can only apply and adjust borders on every side of an object, instead of specifying thicknesses or colours on individual sides.

While you can customise text styles for pre-existing tags or create your own, you can't create classes for buttons or other elements. Even its text styles don't include background colours, borders or text shadows, and there's no way to edit active, hover or focus states for anything but buttons or pull-down menus. Sparkle doesn't yet support rudimentary HTML elements like bullet-pointed lists or tables, and there's no built-in support for adding your own jQuery or other custom scripting.

Sparkle's implementation of responsive design – making sure sites adjust to look good on any size screen – feels half-baked.

Sparkle offers five convenient pre-set sizes: widescreen, PC, vertical tablet and horizontal and vertical phone. You can enable or disable any of those views, and once you've established a basic design in one view, Sparkle will do its best to scale it up or down for others. That's considerate in theory, but leads to incredibly tiny text, elements that move to places I hadn't put them or just vanish entirely. Sparkle's smart enough to warn you when a change made at one size may affect other views, but I wish it would help you avoid those problems altogether.

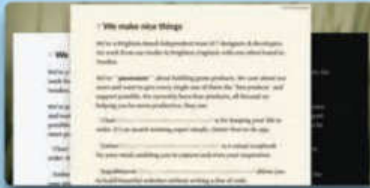
– BY NATHAN ALDERMAN





TYPED PRODUCTIVITY

Realmac
\$37.99



For writers, one of the most annoying features of many word processing apps is the on-screen clutter. All those buttons and menus may be useful, but they can be

a distraction. Typed offers a distraction-free writing environment with support for keyboard shortcuts, an on-screen word count so you stay on target and support for autosave, so you never lose a word.



SMART CONVERTER VIDEO

ShedWorx
FREE



Converting video files between formats used to be a colossal pain. Smart Converter makes the task a simple 'drag and drop' operation with support for hundreds of different file types. The

app lets you choose the device you'll be viewing your file with and then works its magic. Simple, free and passes the 'just works' test.



CONTROLAIR UTILITIES

eyeSight Technologies
FREE



Gesture driven control of your Mac — it's been a dream for many of us. ControlAir shows the potential of this. Simply raise your finger towards your iSight camera while using a music playback app and the sound is

muted. It works with iTunes, Spotify, Rdio and several other music apps.



GEMINI UTILITIES

MacPaw
\$12.99



Duplicate files are one of the great space hogs of our systems. In enterprise, de-duping is big business and it's no wonder it's starting to filter down to

consumer systems. Gemini finds duplicate files on your Mac and lets you quickly remove them once you've verified that it's OK to do so.



TWEETBOT 2 SOCIAL MEDIA

Tapbots
\$18.99

When a service you use has its own free software, why turn to a third party for an alternative? The folks at Tapbots answer that with each update to Tweetbot. Tweetbot provides a straightforward timeline view, threaded conversations appear with a double-click, and there's no need to buy into each of Twitter's sometimes dubious and sometimes useful innovations. Tweetbot divides Twitter in several categories. Your timeline, mentions, direct messages and items you've favourited each have their own tab. Search, user profile, lists and mutes do as well. The user interface has been updated for Yosemite; every element is crisper and works better with Retina displays. This release is an improvement that retains all of Tweetbot's delight and simplicity of use. Tapbots needs to polish an update to push this version further forward.



BUSINESS



FIVE WAYS ONENOTE IS BETTER THAN APPLE'S NOTES APP

BY JASON CIPRIANI

The iPad is a convenient note-taking tool for the classroom and boardroom alike. And while Apple's own Notes app is more than equipped to handle any text you can throw at it, it lacks enough breakthrough features to keep you coming back.

Enter Microsoft. What? Microsoft? Yes, I'll say it: Microsoft has a better iOS app than Apple, and it's called OneNote. OneNote does so much more than the Notes app that comes installed on your iPhone and iPad.

How is it better? Glad you asked.

ALL IT TAKES IS A FINGER (OR STYLUS)

There's something intimate about seeing your own handwriting on a piece of paper or, in this case, on a screen.

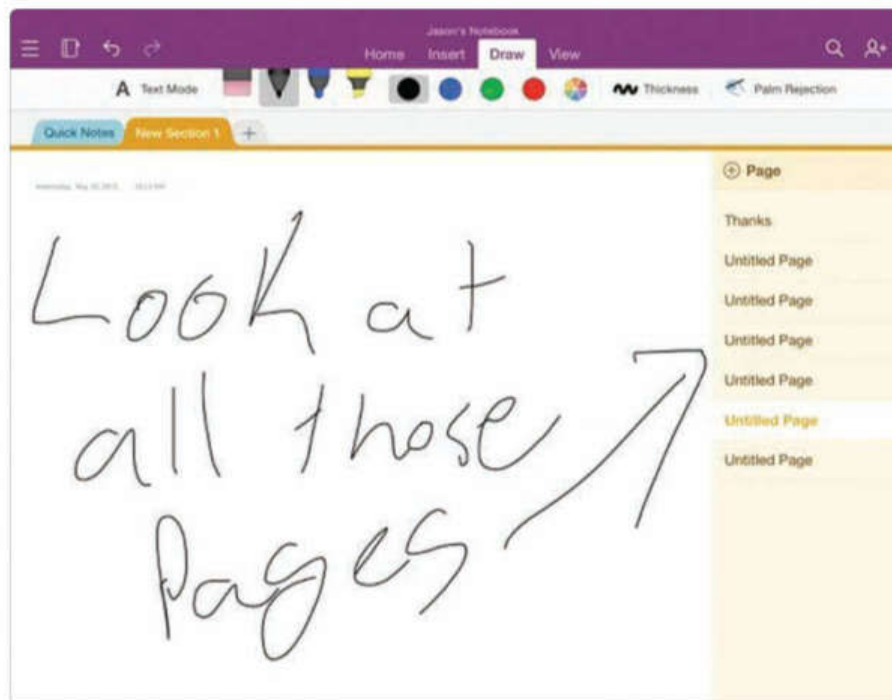
With OneNote for iPad, you can jot down notes, or circle and highlight important bits of information, as you would on a piece of paper. With options to change the marker type and colour, you can get as fancy as you'd like. Not to mention, the doodles you inevitably end up drawing in the margins will look better than ever.

All jokes aside, the ability to jot down notes without tapping away on a keyboard is a valuable feature OneNote excels at. The iPhone version of OneNote lacks this feature, but that makes sense given the smaller screen size – you wouldn't really be able to see what you're writing with your hand in the way.

IT'S ALL SEARCHABLE

The Notes app offers a search field to find information tucked away in a note, and so does OneNote. But where OneNote pulls ahead of Notes is that a search also sorts through your handwritten notes, thanks to handwriting recognition.

The only downside is you need to have a data connection on your iOS device



in order for OneNote to do its magic of deciphering your handwriting. As long as you have a data connection, your notes are fully searchable within a few minutes.

OneNote even supports chicken scratches – I have horrible penmanship, and OneNote was able to easily identify my writing after my notes were processed.

YOU CAN ADD DOCUMENTS, FILES AND PICTURES

OneNote doesn't stick to the tried and true single line format of text. If you want to place a bullet point list in the middle of your screen, with a photo next to it, go right ahead.

Additionally, you can add photos and attachments from outside sources such as OneDrive, Dropbox and even iCloud Drive. Those attachments then become part of the page, with the potential to be manipulated and used as you see fit.

IT'S MULTIPLATFORM

While we would all love to exclusively use Apple products, it's not always possible. With OneNote, it doesn't matter what platform you find yourself using, your notes are there.

Using your Microsoft account, OneNote will sync your notebooks and pages across

the cloud regardless of the platform you're using. And OneNote is on all of them: Android, Windows, OS X, Chrome, Kindle tablets and the web.


When you want to share a page, you can either share a link or export it as a PDF and email it from directly within OneNote.

ORGANISE EVERYTHING IN NOTEBOOKS

Instead of forcing you to manage a never-ending list of documents, as Notes does, OneNote provides the option to create notebooks. For example, you can have one for work, school, your personal life and maybe even a daydream notebook.

You can then add pages to each notebook, further organising content within a category. This makes it even easier to sift and sort through.

IT'S JUST BETTER

Microsoft has done a tremendous job of bringing OneNote to Apple products (among others). With frequent updates and feature additions, it's clear OneNote has the advantage on Apple's Notes. The five features I cover here only begin to scratch the surface of OneNote's full capabilities. 

APPLE AND IBM DO MORE BUSINESS

BY KATHERINE NOYES

IBM's year-long partnership with Apple took a new turn with the PC giant's announcement of new cloud services designed to help large companies incorporate Macs into their IT infrastructures.

With the new offering, which is part of IBM's MobileFirst services portfolio, clients can order Macs and have them delivered directly to their employees without the need for any additional setup, imaging or configuration. Employees can then quickly and securely gain network access,

connect to email and download business applications, IBM says.

The services can also accommodate employees' own, personal Macs in corporate BYOD (bring your own device) settings. They are delivered via the cloud as a software as a service (SaaS) product, but are also available on premises in clients' data centres.

The announcement of the new services comes hard on the heels of recent reports that IBM will be purchasing as many as 200,000 Macs annually for use internally, and, in fact, the new offering is based on experience IBM gained through its Mac@IBM program.

The ability to incorporate Macs within enterprise IT is "a rising requirement", IBM says, as more clients adopt or allow the

use of Macs by their employees.

Figuring prominently in the new offering is the Casper Suite from JAMF Software that's designed to help users quickly set up and deploy Macs, including MacBook, MacBook Air, MacBook Pro, Mac Mini, iMac and Mac Pro.

Also included are ongoing support services providing OS and image management, software application and update management, an enterprise app catalogue, automatic compliance and configuration updates for security, and inventory and reporting for hardware and software. Users also can access a range of self-help resources, says IBM.

IBM offers enterprise services that deliver support for iOS devices as well, including iPad and iPhone. 





MACS CAN BE REMOTELY INFECTED WITH FIRMWARE MALWARE THAT REMAINS AFTER REFORMATTING

BY DARLENE STORM

When companies claim their products are unhackable or invulnerable, it must be like waving a red flag in front of a bull, as it practically dares security researchers to prove otherwise. Apple previously claimed that Macs were not vulnerable to the same firmware flaws that could backdoor PCs, so researchers proved they could remotely infect Macs with a firmware worm that is so tough to detect and get rid of that they suggested it presents a 'toss your Mac in the trash' situation.

Corey Kallenberg, Xeno Kovah and Trammell Hudson presented 'Thunderstrike 2: Sith Strike' at Black Hat USA on 6 August. "Although several attacks have been presented against Mac firmware, unlike their PC counterparts, all of them required physical presence to perform," they wrote in the description of their talk. "Interestingly, when contacted with the details of previously disclosed PC firmware

attacks, Apple systematically declared themselves not vulnerable. This talk will provide conclusive evidence that Macs are in fact vulnerable to many of the software-only firmware attacks that also affect PC systems. In addition, to emphasise the consequences of successful exploitation of these attack vectors, we will demonstrate the power of the dark side by showing what Mac firmware malware is capable of."

The researchers previously used LightEater when they presented 'How Many Million BIOSes Would you Like to Infect?' After they revealed that about 80 percent of PCs have firmware vulnerabilities, Apple claimed Macs did not. But Kovah has said that's not true, telling Wired, "It turns out almost all of the attacks we found on PCs are also applicable to Macs." In fact, the researchers said five of the six vulnerabilities studied affect Mac firmware.

Firmware runs when you first boot a machine; it launches the operating system. For Apple computers, the firmware is called the extensible firmware interface (EFI). Most people believe Apple products are superior when it comes to security, but the researchers want to "make it clear that any time you hear about EFI firmware attacks, it's pretty much all x86 [computers]". Attackers need only a few seconds to remotely infect Mac firmware. Macs infected with Thunderstrike 2 would

remain infected even if a user were to wipe the hard drive and reinstall the OS, as that doesn't fix a firmware infection.

Attackers may choose to infect a target via a phishing email and malicious site. The malware could "spread automatically from MacBook to MacBook, without the need for them to be networked". Attackers could remotely target computers, even air-gapped ones, with Thunderstrike 2, as it is designed to spread by infecting the option ROM on peripheral devices. The proof-of-concept malware would "be on the lookout for any peripherals connected to the computer that contain option ROM, such as an Apple Thunderbolt Ethernet adapter, and infect the firmware on those," explained Wired. "The worm would then spread to any other computer to which the adapter gets connected."

When another machine is booted with this worm-infected device inserted, the machine firmware loads the option ROM from the infected device, triggering the worm to initiate a process that writes its malicious code to the boot flash firmware on the machine. If a new device is subsequently plugged into the computer and contains option ROM, the worm will write itself to that device as well and use it to spread.

One way to randomly infect machines would be to sell infected Ethernet adapters on eBay or infect them in a factory.



Recently, LegbaCore published a 'bricking demo' video showing a Mac mini being rendered unbootable due to vulnerable firmware.

The video description reads: "Apple does not follow Intel's recommended best practices for protecting their firmware. Consequently, Macs are vulnerable to being disabled in such a way that they can never be made bootable again either by attempting to boot off external media (like a DVD/USB) and reinstalling the OS, or by changing the entire HD/SSD with a known working one. The only way to recover from such attacks is to reflash the SPI flash chip with a known-clean copy of the firmware. This attack does not require


physical presence. It can be launched via a remote connection to the system (e.g. SSH/VNC)."

Apple was notified about the flaws, but naturally the vulnerabilities are not discussed within Apple's description of the Mac's Thunderbolt interface and Thunderbolt peripherals. Although Apple partially fixed a Mac EFI flaw in June, the researchers said other issues they identified are still unpatched. Apple chose not to implement protections against one flaw that would prevent an attacker from updating OS X code.

"[The attack is] really hard to detect, it's really hard to get rid of, and it's really hard to protect against something that's

running inside the firmware," Kovah said. Reflashing the chip that contains the firmware is the only way to eliminate Thunderstrike 2 malware embedded in the firmware.

On Twitter, Hudson previously asked if you are "vulnerable to the cute kittens of Thunderstrike 2" and his tweet included a picture of a Mac with a cute kitty and a link to "download a cute cat screensaver".

After their presentation, the researchers intend to release some tools that will "allow users to check the option ROM on their devices, but the tools aren't able to check the boot flash firmware on machines". The trio demonstrated the attack at Def Con on 8 August. 

FACEBOOK GIVES BUSINESSES MORE WAYS TO PRIVATELY MESSAGE USERS

BY ZACH MINERS

Facebook is giving businesses more reasons to use Facebook Messenger to reach customers.

Businesses using the site now have more ways to send private messages, through Messenger, to Facebook users who interact with businesses' pages or ads. Previously, businesses could only respond to users' messages in the way they were initiated, either through a comment or a

private message. Now, if a user leaves a comment on a Facebook page, the page owner can respond privately through Messenger.

The changes also include new messaging integration for ads on Facebook. Businesses can incorporate a 'Send Message' button into their ads, to let Facebook users initiate a private conversation directly from the ad.

The changes, announced in early August, are designed to give businesses on Facebook an easier way to connect with customers, answer questions and handle customer support issues. For businesses that maintain Facebook pages, but who do not advertise on the site, the changes may also provide new incentives for them to do so.

Facebook also wants to let users know which businesses are the most efficient in their responses to users' messages. Pages that respond to 90 percent of messages and have a median response time of less than five minutes will have a "very responsive" label added to their pages.

Facebook users will be able to block private messages from businesses, the company said.

Facebook views its Messenger service as more than an app simply for exchanging messages between friends. The company has also begun to expand Messenger's functions, so that users can check the status of their retail transactions using the app.

Messenger also has a peer-to-peer payments feature, though currently it only allows for payments between friends.



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No, WSJ, Apple shouldn't kill off the Mac

A *Wall Street Journal* piece argues Apple should kill the Macintosh line. It completely ignores Apple's fundamental thinking about its future.

The *Wall Street Journal* isn't trolling us, is it? Columnist Christopher Mims penned an essay titled 'Why Apple Should Kill Off the Mac', which enumerates various reasons. But it ignores the elephant in the room: Apple will never again let another company decide its destiny.

Mims' thesis is that Apple is stretched so thinly, it cannot design new Macs and produce an operating system for them while maintaining its focus on making the best products in the world. The iPhone, iPad and Apple Watch suffer because Macs still exist. No longer investing in "one-of-a-kind feats of engineering like the Mac Pro" would free the company to go all-in on the future of mobile and wearables.

But Mims' essay is subtle and worth taking seriously because he believes Apple is being held back by putting resources into "being king of a last-century technology". Macs account for less than 10 percent of Apple's revenue in the current quarter and an unknown but significant percentage of profit.

I fear that Mims is pushing away details like Apple's fundamental view of itself, its software engineering process and its hardware development. Let's not forget the fact that any other company would kill for the revenue, growth, margins and profits that the Macintosh line counts for on its own.

HARDWARE SPIT AND POLISH, SOFTWARE SPIT

Apple doesn't have a hardware manufacturing problem. The Watch was 'delayed' in that it clearly shipped later than Apple had originally intended. But when it did ship, it emerged as a thing of relative perfection compared to other Apple products and most other wearables.

The new 12in MacBook is the pinnacle of Apple's manufacturing perfection for computers, despite people's complaints about it bearing just one USB-C port. Even if you hate the keyboard, it works as advertised.

Apple's hardware engineering feeds back across its product lines. While other firms have distinct divisions that become silos, in which there's very little cross-product interaction, one of Steve Jobs' key missions was to prevent silos from forming. It makes

micro-management from the top very easy, but it also means that two or more parts of the company aren't solving the same problem.

The 12in MacBook's tiny main board and overall design is informed by the iPad. The engineering to create terraces of batteries in the MacBook will likely be used in future iOS devices. Apple bought a chip-design firm and continues to acquire technology around it so that it can use its own designs across its products.

The same companies, parts and product lines make all of Apple's products, and all feed back together across them. While the iPad was secretly being designed in a lab for years before its release, the MacBook Air was strutting out there in public.

Apple doesn't drop everything to design new Macs. It folds in the lessons learned from everything it does to make new ones. The new Mac Pro's unique design didn't gobble up resources. There's nothing in the hardware that pushed any envelopes; it was a design and manufacturing challenge of the sort Apple constantly solves. And it was a 'gift' to developers and professional users, to show the company was still thinking about them.

As for software, you're not going to find me saying that all is rainbows and unicorns. However, because of the parallel trees of development across OS X and iOS, along with similar trees for its other products, much of the work that goes into improving system releases is across platforms.

The issues that I, and others, complained about in iOS 8 and Yosemite are at a higher level of software development, which consumes a much smaller percentage of the whole. Sometimes, it's presentation, sometimes interaction, sometimes cloud services. iCloud problems aren't a Mac problem, although sometimes it's OS X that's at fault in a sync.

But software troubles aren't solved by focus. They're solved by good management, good processes and time. Apple rebuilt its management in 2012, leading to Jony Ive taking over interface development alongside industrial design. This resulted in two years of software turmoil, as fundamental engineering and top-level user experience was changed.

Not having the Mac, as Mims would prefer, would have reduced some of how thinly Apple was spread. But this transition is over and Apple is back into a building stage, in which it reaps the rewards of the software engineering performed since 2012 and new hardware released in the last two years.

This would be the worst time for Apple to stop making Macs.

THE MAC IS NOT A TYPEWRITER

The Mac isn't just a flagship product, despite its reduced share of revenue, and the reduced importance of personal computers in the universe of all computing devices. It's the foundation on which everything Apple is today was built. It also remains the foundation of its longest-term, most loyal customers – women and men who have used a Mac for 10, 20 or even 30 years.



Yes, Apple regularly kills its darlings. Dumping OS 9 for OS X – a necessary and painful step. Moving from the dead-end of PowerPC processors to an Intel architecture. Embracing Microsoft to bring Office back to the Mac, then developing its own productivity suite. Going all-in on 'flat' design with Yosemite. Delaying a true Mac Pro refresh for years, then producing an aesthetically pleasing high-performance system. Releasing a laptop with – get this – one port!

Those core users were mostly the ones who bought the first iPhones, because no other smartphone platform worked well with the Mac. They bought the first iPads, because they liked the iPhone. It's only recently that Apple's mobile audience has grown largely outside the universe of Mac owners.

Killing the Mac means a stake through the hearts of tens of millions or more users who grew up with that computer. It means walking away from thousands of software companies.

But let's pretend that even that isn't important and Apple could weather it.

Apple will never again cede its future to other firms' control. It's why Apple makes its own chips, buys industrial-manufacturing firms that create special tools, which it puts into its assembly partners' factories, and even blows a wad of cash on a failed attempt to generate more sapphire screens.

It's why it has its own computer platform: all software development for the iPhone, iPad and Apple Watch (and Mac apps) occurs on Macs. There's no other way to assemble software for those devices. Even with the

highest-end Mac hardware currently available, developers strain against the amount of time it can take to compile and test builds, whether in Mac-based emulators or when cross-loaded onto a developer's test devices.

The Mac is a highly profitable developer-platform division that happens to also serve consumers and businesses. And graphics and video professionals represent a significant portion of Apple's highest revenue and highest margin Mac sales, and also, not surprisingly, have disposable cash they use to buy iPhones, iPads and Apple Watches.

FORWARD IN ALL DIRECTIONS?

Mims is right that Apple has a lot to fix. Despite its confusing Apple Music launch, WWDC showed that the company is dedicated to that task by putting the brakes on, and maturing, its three platforms – iOS, OS X and watchOS.

The Mac isn't as much of a distraction as Mims wants it to be. Apple's problem seems to be software and services execution, with more trouble on the cloud side than fundamental on-device issues in iOS and OS X.

Mims suggests of the Mac line, "Apple doesn't need this revenue." That seems misguided. In terms of the ecosystem and goodwill alone, there's a large halo. But, beyond that, Apple will never again make the mistake of giving any other company the power to veto its future.

The Mac will abide as long as Apple doesn't lose its way. ☞



**GEAR
GIZMOS
GOODIES**

GADGETGUIDE

iMac with Retina 5K display

When Apple released the first 27in iMac with Retina 5K display late last year, all it took was just one look at the gorgeous images on the display and you knew you wanted it. So maybe you forgot about the Retina 5K iMac, until Apple announced a new, lower priced version this year in May. The new Retina 5K iMac is \$2799, which isn't as scary as \$3199 for its more expensive sibling.

There are three major differences between the new \$2799 Retina 5K iMac and the \$3199 Retina 5K iMac. These three components are slightly slower in the new model than the ones in the more expensive model.

The first component is the processor. It's still a quad-core Core i5 processor, but it's a little slower: 3.3GHz with Turbo Boost up to 3.7GHz, compared to 3.5GHz (3.9GHz Turbo Boost) in the dearer model.

The second is storage. The \$2799 Retina 5K iMac comes with a 1TB hard drive. Even though it's a 7200-rpm drive, it's not as fast as the 1TB Fusion Drive in the \$3199 model. (You can upgrade to a Fusion Drive for an additional \$280.)

The third is graphics. The less expensive Retina 5K iMac has a 2GB AMD Radeon R9 M290 graphics, which is a notch down performance-wise from the dearer Retina 5K iMac's 2GB AMD Radeon R9 M290X.

Everything else about the \$2799 Retina 5K iMac is the same as its more expensive sibling.

Of course, there's the marquee feature of this iMac, the display. The same 27in IPS display is used in both Retina 5K iMac models. It has a native 5120 by 2880 resolution and, in case you're wondering, Apple's default resolution setting in the Displays system preference is 2560 by 1440.

For some users, a Retina display is a luxury – there's nothing wrong with Apple's standard display, which produces good image quality. But if you deal with the details all day long – either in text, images, video or all three – you'll appreciate looking at the Retina display. I'd even say it could help you be more productive.

The Geekbench 3 results show that the \$2799 Retina 5K iMac is four percent slower than the \$3199 Retina 5K iMac in the 64-bit multicore and single-core tests, and three percent slower in the 32-bit multicore and single-core tests. The \$2799 Retina 5K iMac is also four percent slower in the Cinebench R15 CPU test. And in the Cinebench R15 OpenGL video test, the two machines posted similar results.

The iMac with Retina 5K display is one of the most impressive desktop computers to come from Apple, and now there are two models from which to choose. The \$2799 Retina 5K iMac is the better choice as an everyday computer for typical users – you probably won't notice the performance hit from the hard drive when using the internet, working in productivity apps, putting together a short home video or organising the pictures you took for the day. Professionals and power users looking for a production machine to handle long video renders, high-detail photography, audio and more should opt for the \$3199 model with its Fusion Drive.

\$2799 / Apple / apple.com/au

– BY ROMAN LOYOLA



Jabra Sport Coach

Jabra's Sport Coach earbuds are a bit different from your usual set of earbuds. Yes, they deliver music, but they also feature a motion sensor that measures distance, pace, steps, cadence and calories burned. All of this info is delivered to you via Jabra's corresponding cross-training app, where you can turn on its optional audio coaching guide. Plus, these Bluetooth-powered wireless sports earbuds are sweat- and weather-proof.

Jabra
\$199
jabra.com.au



STM Linear

This shoulder bag has plenty of room for your 13in or smaller MacBook, MacBook Air, MacBook Pro or iPad and accessories. It sports an adjustable shoulder strap, soft-lined compartment, a front slip pocket and a front zippered pocket. The Linear comes with a reflective tab for better visibility at night and different colour options.

STM Bags
\$89.95
stmbags.com.au



Sensoria Smart Socks

The smart garment market is getting a little crazy. Sensoria's smart socks are able to monitor your footfall, so runners can get advice on how to modify their gait for better performance. For your money you get two pairs of socks, an ankle transmitter, charger for the anklet and the mobile app.

Sensoria
US\$199
sensoriafitness.com



MIXIT Power Pack 4000

Keeping your devices charged when on the go can be the difference between staying in touch and missing that big opportunity. The MIXIT has a pair of USB ports so you can deliver juice to two devices at a time from its 4000mAh battery. Four small LEDs give you an easy way to check the charge.

Belkin
\$50
belkin.com.au



DxO ONE

The DxO One combines the convenience of shooting photos with your iPhone with the image quality and RAW formats of a DSLR into one killer device. This compact camera attaches to your iPhone's or iPad's Lightning connector, so you've got an external lens, a real shutter button and even space for a microSD card. You'll compose shots and tweak settings on the iPhone's nice large screen. The aluminium device is only 6.7cm tall and weighs just 108g, and its lens is a f/1.8, 32mm equivalent aspherical lens with a variable six-blade iris and a 1in, 20.2MP CMOS BSI sensor – which means it's great for low-light images. Even attached to an iOS device, the camera can still pivot as much as 60 degrees up or down. And, yes, you can also face the camera towards you for selfies.

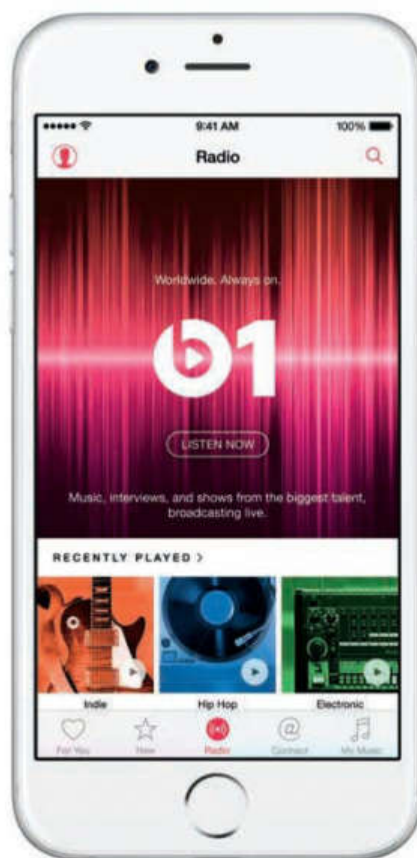
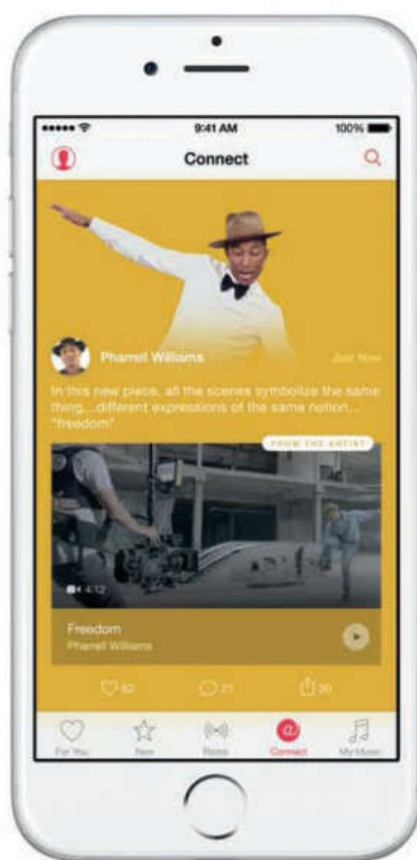
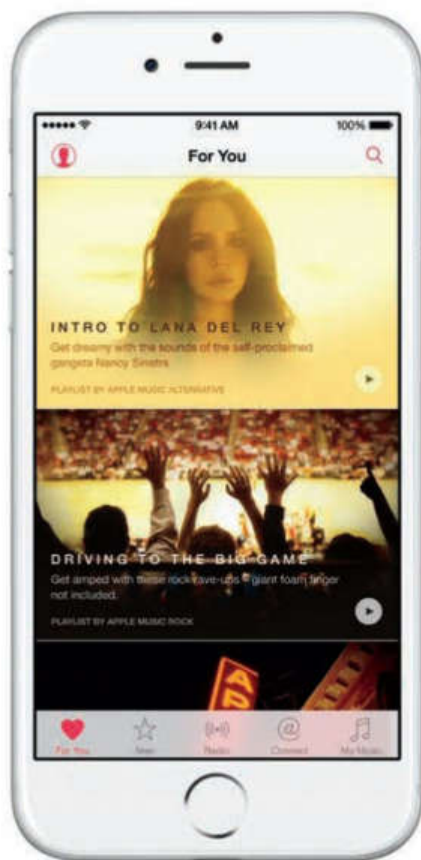
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APPLE MUSIC: SIRI AND BEATS 1 TURN STREAMING ON ITS EAR

SEPTEMBER 2015
www.macworld.com.au



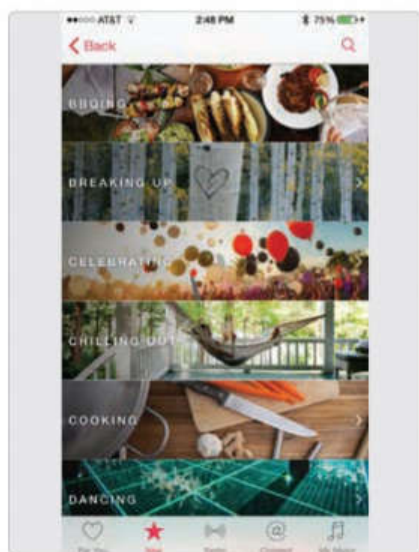


Apple Music was worth the wait. Amid a marketing frenzy and controversy over royalty payments and Taylor Swift's feelings, it was easy to forget that few people had actually used Apple's new streaming service. Apple finally launched Music on 30 June, and it was everything we expected it to be (plus a few surprises thrown in for good measure).

Whether you're giving streaming a try for the first time or just weighing the pros and cons of Apple's service against rivals like Spotify, Rdio, Tidal and Pandora, there's nothing to lose by taking Apple Music for a spin.

THE SETUP

Once you upgrade to iOS 8.4, diving right into Apple Music is simple. The revamped Music app appears in your iOS device's dock. Open it and you're greeted with subscription options. You have to pick between a \$11.99 individual subscription and \$17.99 family plan, then enter your Apple ID and password. The subscription will auto-renew when your free three-month trial ends, but you don't have to set a calendar reminder to cancel on 30 September. You can turn off auto-renew straight from the Music app by tapping on *Account* > *Apple ID* > *Manage Subscriptions*. You'll still be able to enjoy your free trial even if your flirtation with Apple Music is just temporary.



Apple Music mimics Beats Music's get-to-know-you process by having you tap on genre bubbles to winnow out the stuff you hate and learn what you love. Then it serves up more bubbles with specific artists to really home in on your preferences. The service uses those indicators, plus your liberal use of the heart button on the songs you want to hear over and over again, to populate the For You section.

For a detailed walkthrough on setting up Apple Music, check out our guide (go.macworld.com/setup). Now let's explore the five tabs that make up Music's menu, pinned to the bottom of your screen.

FOR YOU

I knew it was love when I tapped on For You and Apple Music served up a hip-hop workout mix called 'Trappin' on the Treadmill', which is perfect for my early morning runs, and a playlist of Beyoncé and Jay-Z collaborations. It was sort of astounding how well the app knew me. I've been using Spotify for years and it's never greeted me with such tailored recommendations – and all it took was tapping on a few bubbles.

I expect this section to become more robust as it learns more about my tastes, but the curated playlists and album recommendations that For You offers are on a par with other streaming services, and reminded me of Beats Music's editorial point-of-view.



NEW

Here's where Music gets a little complicated. The New section is jam-packed with stuff to listen to, but thankfully the week's new releases are pinned to the top, which is where they should be. (Taylor Swift's 2014 release, *1989*, currently claims the primary slot even though it's far from being new, but being the sole service to stream Swift's opus is Apple Music's claim to fame, so I'll allow it.) Apple Music will have the same new albums and singles each Tuesday that the other streaming services have, so this isn't a differentiator. It's essential.

Then New starts to dive further into new music. There is Hot Tracks, a selection of songs you may not have heard of but are gaining traction. Keep scrolling for Recent Releases, then head into Top Charts, where you can stream the top songs and albums, and watch the newest music videos on iTunes. All of this is just a tap away, and the experience is completely seamless.

New also surfaces songs and videos that artists share on Connect, so even if you don't follow an artist, you can still find out what they're doing on the Apple Music's social platform.

KEEP SCROLLING. THERE'S MORE.

New offers genre-specific playlists from Apple Music's editors and high-profile curators from partners like *Rolling Stone* and *Vice*. Want to hear supermodel Kendall Jenner's workout playlist? It takes a few taps to get there, but New is where you'll find it.

Apple also spotlights selected artists – currently Sia – and highlights songs from new artists, and that's all after you've been exploring activity-based soundtracks to barbecuing, running and working (these were also snagged from Beats Music and are well worth a listen). The activity playlists should really be featured more prominently, like they are in the new Spotify app's Moments tab, because having to hunt through Music to find a Friday night soundtrack or a Monday morning productivity playlist isn't ideal. New has so much music that I could spend hours wading through it, but its UI (user interface) is a little too cluttered to be useful.

RADIO

I rarely use other streaming services' radio features, because the best part about paying for streaming is having on-demand access to the songs I want to listen to right now. But Apple is still pushing for radio to succeed, and maybe it's on to something – 243 million people listen to terrestrial radio in the US every week.

One of Apple Music's marquee features is Beats 1, a 24-hour worldwide radio station anchored by radio personalities Zane Lowe, Ebro Darden and Julie Adenuga. The station kicked off with an unlikely first song, 'City' by the British band Spring King. They were as shocked as anyone else to hear their song launch the new service.

If you hate FM radio stations hosted by DJs that talk over songs and play whatever they want, regardless of status on the pop charts, Beats 1 isn't the station for you. Apple Music features a slew of other themed radio stations in the Radio section with no humans to disturb you. Want to put on Disney Princess Radio for your kids' living room dance party? Done. Need a workout station to provide the soundtrack for your morning run? Apple Music has it. The upcoming show schedule is at applemusic.tumblr.com.

Each station gives you plenty of other options to act when you hear a song you love. Just tap on the hamburger menu (denoted by the three dots), and add a song to a playlist or to My Music, share it using the share sheet, or navigate to iTunes to buy it.

CONNECT

I was sceptical about Music's Connect feature from the moment Apple announced it at WWDC, because there are already so many social platforms I can use to follow my favourite celebrities. Beyoncé posts personal photos and song clips on Instagram. Taylor Swift uses Tumblr to connect with her fans. It's unclear if Connect can become the place these musicians will turn to, but right now, it's pretty bare bones.

Connect would be much more useful – and more social – if you could connect with friends on the platform to share

songs or collaborate on playlists instead of simply following artists.

I'm planning to stick with Connect to see if it improves, but if you have no interest in following artists, then banishing Connect from your Music is simple. Just head on over to your iOS device's *Settings* > *General* > *Restrictions* and toggle off Apple Music Connect. The tab will disappear from your Music dock, replaced with Playlists (which are decoupled from My Music when you don't enable Connect).

MY MUSIC

When you fall in love with a song, tapping on the three dots next to the title brings up a list of options: you can add it to a specific playlist, share it with a friend, queue it up to play next or save it to My Music, which is where your entire library lives. Songs you've purchased from iTunes sit alongside playlists you've built just to stream. You can organise your library however you'd like – by album, by artist, by song or by music that's available to listen to offline. Offline listening is a hugely important offering for any streaming service, given what a data-hog streaming can be, so Apple makes it very easy to move your must-have music offline.

You can also remove downloads to save space on your phone while keeping them in your iCloud Music Library (just tap the ellipses next to the song title and tap Remove Download). You can play with the settings to manage music storage on your phone by heading over to *Settings* > *General* > *Usage* > *Manage Storage* > *Music*.

SIRI


So Connect isn't all that great yet, but social networking was never Apple's strong suit. Where Cupertino consistently kills it? Integration. The way Siri works seamlessly with Music to queue up the songs you want to hear is a perfect example of how Apple products can offer you a frictionless experience – and it could be a game-changer when it comes to streaming music. Never before have I been able to tell my phone to play an album just released today and have the first track thrumming in my earbuds within seconds.

It's actually kind of magical.

Siri's capabilities when it comes to Music are incredibly powerful. She can do the basics, like play a specific song, album or artist. She can also add songs to your queue, shuffle an album or an artist's entire catalogue, find chart-topping hits from years past, and figure out what you mean when you tell her to "play that one song from *True Detective*". (She chose the theme, which is what I was looking for.) You don't even have to have the app open for Siri to do all of this heavy lifting. I don't often find uses for Siri, but her integration with Music is a huge selling point for me, and just might convince me to give up my Spotify premium subscription.

THE VERDICT

Apple Music is free for three months and comes preinstalled when you upgrade to iOS 8.4, so giving the streaming service a shot is a no-risk, no-effort move. I recommend taking it for a spin if you use a competing service to see what you like and what you don't. If you prefer owning your music to streaming, Apple Music makes it incredibly easy to discover new songs you may have never listened to before and then buy them straight from iTunes.

Between Siri, music videos, Beats 1 and the playlist-curation and recommendation tech Apple lifted from Beats Music, Apple Music makes a strong case for streaming and proves the Cupertino company just may revolutionise music all over again. 





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APP GUIDE

Cool software for the iOS & Apple Watch.



SPARK
PRODUCTIVITY
Readdle
IPHONE & WATCH FREE



The battle for mobile email supremacy is heating up, with new third-party contestants appearing in the App Store on an increasingly regular basis. Unfortunately, almost all of them have the same fundamental flaw: trying too hard to be different.

Readdle believes there's still hope for the traditional inbox and, rather than attempt to dumb it down Readdle has added a new layer of intelligence instead. The result is Spark, one of the best mobile email solutions around, but more work is required before it can take home the crown.

Spark works with Apple, Google, Microsoft and Yahoo email accounts, along with plenty of others supporting IMAP. There's also built-in support for the most popular 'read later' services, Evernote, OneNote and cloud storage providers, which can be used to send file attachments or save them directly from messages.

The app features a unified inbox that can be viewed in Traditional mode, where inbound messages are displayed in threaded conversations similar to Apple Mail; and what Readdle calls a Smart Inbox that automatically organises email into personal, notification and newsletter categories to help focus on what's important.

Users can toggle between modes from the inbox or sidebar, the latter of which includes sections for displaying attachments separately from messages, specific email accounts, and consolidated Sent, Drafts, Archive and Trash views (much handier than Apple Mail). Spark offers a slick option for adding personalised views, which can include frequently accessed IMAP folders or so-called 'smart folders' containing saved search results entered using natural language.

Important messages can also be pinned (Spark's version of flags) atop the inbox making them hard to ignore, and other 'message cards' can be added as widgets hovering in the top or bottom corner of the inbox for easy access. Readdle promises new cards are coming with even more useful content and service options for tracking flights, packages or purchases made on iTunes and Amazon.

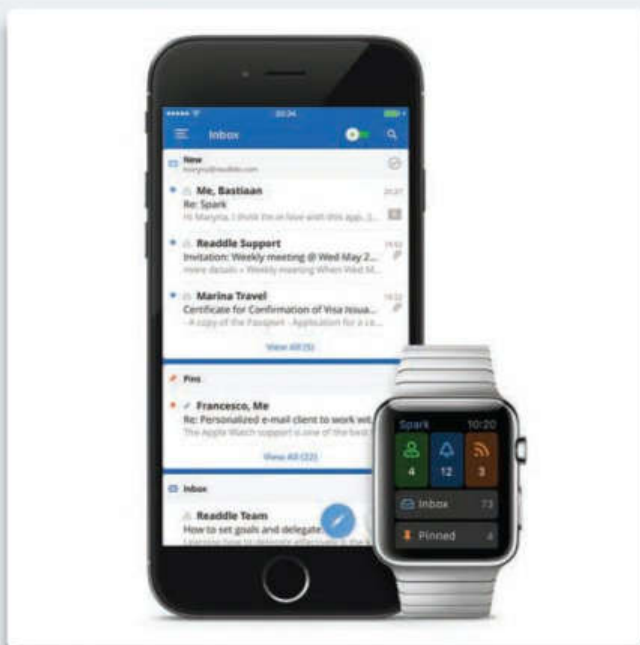
Spark supports the Apple Watch, offering quick one-tap replies to confirm message receipt (also available from the main app), as well as the ability to dictate proper replies using your voice. Watch owners can view a condensed version of the inbox without having to take the iPhone out of their pocket.

For all that Spark manages to get right, the app has a number of nagging issues affecting two-factor authentication with supported cloud services like Evernote, Dropbox or OneDrive. The app repeatedly cleared my login credentials after jumping over to Google Authenticator for a new code, while the built-in 1Password integration occasionally locked up.

You'll want to get used to seeing Spark's splash screen as it pops up nearly every time the app is launched. The app isn't particularly good about marking unviewed messages as read when deleted via Notification Center, or clearing notifications from the lock screen once opened with a swipe.

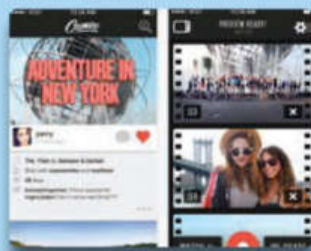
Despite these complaints, Spark is a well-made, solid email client with lots of potential. Aside from the aforementioned bugs, the biggest thing missing is native iPad support. I'd also love to see Readdle add spam and other categories to Smart Inbox mode, which would further help tame unruly inboxes.

— BY J R BOOKWALTER





cameo
VIDEO
Vimeo
iPHONE FREE



Cameo has come a long way from its first days as a 'fill-in-the-blank' video app that let users dump video clips into a template that did the hard editing work for them. Under new owner Vimeo, it's become a simpler, more straightforward video editor. Plenty of filters and music

options help you create just the video atmosphere you're looking for.



POCKET WEATHER AUSTRALIA
WEATHER
ShiftyJelly
iPHONE FREE



Pocket Weather was the first locally developed weather app for iOS and it continues to be one of the best. The 'follow me' function automatically updates, using Location Services, to give you local weather information including forecasts, radar maps, UV levels and tide timings. It's a well-designed app that continues to get better with each new version.



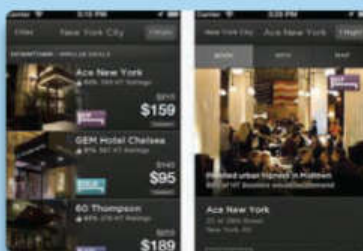
TOUR: MILEAGE LOG
BUSINESS
Troii Software
iPHONE & WATCH FREE



Tour: Mileage Log lets you track your comings and goings. Just activate the app when you take off in the morning and stop it again when you get home; the app senses whether you're on foot or going by car, automatically tracks all your trips, and senses when you stop somewhere. At the end of the day, tally up your mileage. It also works on Apple Watch.



HOTEL TONIGHT
TRAVEL
Hotel Tonight
iPHONE, iPAD & WATCH FREE



The Hotel Tonight app has a pretty nifty new feature in its latest version: 'Escape' lets you know the best hotel deals within driving distance, letting you get away quickly for the weekend without costing a fortune. It also

delivers hotel reviews and lets you book hotels from Apple Watch.



PENNIES
FINANCE
Emile Bennett
iPHONE & WATCH \$4.99

Budgeting – it's one of those things we all should do, but hate to do. Pennies aims to make that task easier by keeping the task as simple as possible. Rather than dealing with the specifics of all your expenses, the app simplifies the process. To set up a budget, you choose from one-off or repeating monthly, weekly, or bi-weekly options, assign a name, start date and currency type. Then you enter how much you plan to allocate to that item. As you spend, enter the details of the purchase and Pennies tracks the rest. If you're a data junkie – Pennies won't be for you. But if you need a simple way to track your spending, Pennies may be just the ticket.



SIX REASONS TO GET EXCITED ABOUT OS X EL CAPITAN

BY JASON SNELL





I'm not feeling a lot of love for OS X El Capitan out there. That may not be surprising, given that it's firmly in the tradition of Mountain Lion and Snow Leopard – new-feature-light, speed-and-stability-focused OS X updates.

But as someone who reviewed Snow Leopard and Mountain Lion, I can tell you that not only did these releases contain a bunch of bug fixes and other internal tweaks, they also managed to add a bunch of new features. Apple can't help itself.

So let me present to you six reasons to be excited about what's coming in El Capitan.

SPOTLIGHT AS SEARCH ENGINE

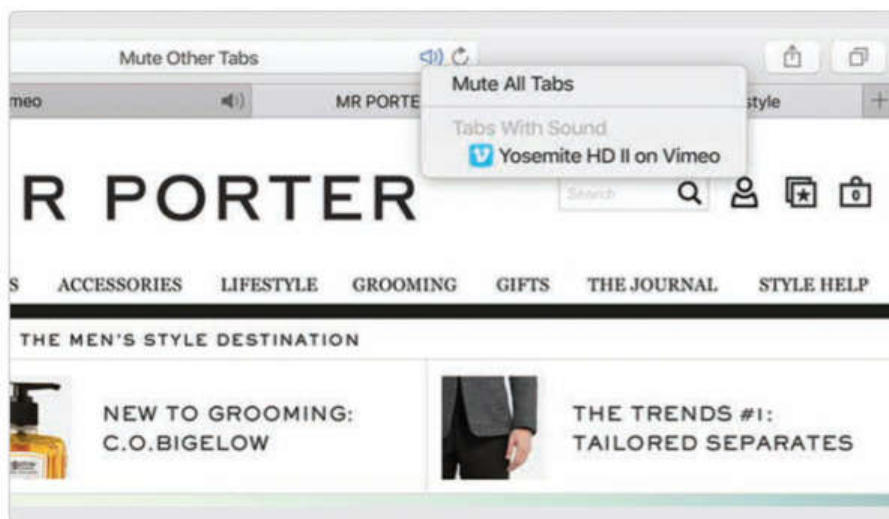
Some people love clicking around looking for things, whether it's on their computer or on the internet. For those people, we have navigation bars on websites and the Finder on the Mac. But other people would really rather just type what they're looking for into a box and hope that the result works for them.

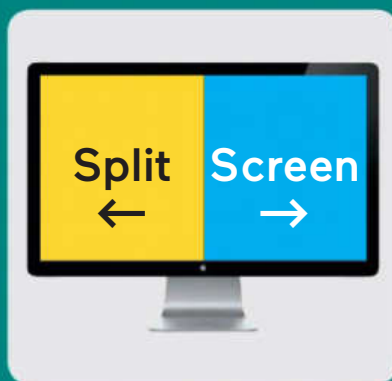
The better the results from those searches get, the more time you can save versus clicking around. With El Capitan, Apple is making Spotlight even more of a search engine than it was previously. Yosemite brought a bunch of new internet data sources to Spotlight, and El Capitan brings even more. If you're wondering about something, be it on your Mac or out in the rest of the world, Spotlight can try to bring it to you.

And in El Capitan, Spotlight will also react to natural-language queries. You'd be surprised to discover just how many people type complete sentences into search boxes on the web. Sure, all of my searches are based on keywords (delete Facebook account), but some of the most popular searches on the web are complete sentences (how do I delete my Facebook account). Spotlight now speaks that language.

Apple doesn't need to launch its own search engine competitor to Google, Bing and DuckDuckGo.

It can integrate all of those search engines while overlaying its own data sources – catching many of your queries





HOW TO GET EL CAPITAN FEATURES WITHOUT UPGRADING TO EL CAPITAN

BY ROMAN LOYOLA

If you don't want to or can't upgrade to El Capitan, there's still a way to get some of its features, thanks to some third-party apps.

FIND MY CURSOR: SIMPLE MOUSE LOCATOR

When you can't find your cursor in El Capitan, just give your mouse or your finger on the trackpad a shake and the cursor grows bigger in order to catch your eye. It's a small feature, but with bigger displays and people using multiple displays, it's a welcome feature.

Simple Mouse Locator (Mac App Store; \$1.29) doesn't make your cursor bigger to locate it. Instead, it surrounds your cursor with a circle. You can also configure a

hotkey, have the locator appear when you're moving the cursor between screens on a multi-screen setup, customise the rings and more.

SPLIT VIEW: SPLIT SCREEN

Think of El Capitan's new Split View feature as a two-app version of full-screen view: two apps fill up the screen at the same time.

Split Screen (Mac App Store; \$8.99) can do the same thing. You select a window, press a keyboard combination that you configured in Split Screen, and then the window fills up half of the screen. Split Screen Pro takes it to the next level, with support for splitting the screen for three apps, dual monitor support and more.

NOTES: EVERNOTE

Apple injected the Notes app with new features that make it more useful. But if you're like me and you use Evernote, you'll wonder why it took Apple so long.

The free version of Evernote lets you create checklists and you can easily configure the Share button in Safari and other apps to be able to save to Evernote. You can also save attachments to your notes, though Evernote doesn't have a feature like Notes' Attachments Browser, but it does have a Card View and Expanded Card View that displays your notes and icons, making it easy to spot images and other attachments. And it can sync to the cloud so you can access Evernote on your iOS devices or other Macs.



before you have to resort to a web search engine. It's happening on iOS and it's happening in El Capitan.

NOTES – YOU HEARD ME!

I know it's not cool to like the Notes app, either on iOS or on the Mac. After all, it's just a next-generation version of Stickies. (By the way, I am shocked to report to you that the Stickies app is still kicking around!)

Notes doesn't have features, but that's OK. It runs on all my devices and syncs between them. I use Notes on iOS all the time when I just need to toss text somewhere and access it later somewhere else. In iOS 9 and El Capitan, Notes is getting an upgrade. It has finally abandoned IMAP syncing (seriously, why did Notes spend years syncing via your email account?) and properly uses iCloud now. And there are numerous new features, including support for clippings and checklists.

According to Apple, half of iPhone users use Notes regularly. I'm one of those people, and I refer to those notes on my Mac frequently. I'd never call Notes an essential app, but it's ubiquitous, and improving it seems right.

SAFARI GETS PINNED

Safari's my default web browser and I use it endlessly, so I'm happy to see Apple continuing to find new ways to improve it. It would be really easy for Apple to rest on Safari development and consider web browsing a solved problem, but that hasn't happened.

In El Capitan, Safari adds support for muting of audio in stray tabs – huge for dealing with sites that really like to play video automatically. As someone who doesn't rely on RSS feeds, but does have a collection of sites I like to visit regularly, I'm enthusiastic about the new Pinned Sites feature, which is sort of like a fancy version of the Favorites Bar, keeping your very favourite sites one click away. It's the kind of feature that novices and power users alike can appreciate.

MAIL SWIPES TO SUCCESS

I've still got a love/hate relationship with the Mail app. I use it for a while, then quit it for an alternative, but eventually seem to end up back in its clutches. But the fact is, most Mac users who use a Mail app use Mail – it's right there. And as with Safari, Apple keeps pushing the ball forward.

I used the Mailbox app for a while and really enjoyed its interface, which (as on iOS) lets you swipe on messages to file or delete them. It's a method that really works if you're using a trackpad, and Apple's integrating it into Mail with El Capitan. It's not the most discoverable feature in the world, but if you do learn how to use it, it's quite a time saver.

UPGRADES TO PHOTOS

Photos for Mac arrived a few months ago, and the feature is getting its first notable update with El Capitan. By far the most glaring feature omission from Photos 1.0 was the ability to add or edit location information. This has been added in the

new version of Photos that comes with El Capitan, along with other metadata editing features, both individually and in batches.

There's also support for third-party photo editing extensions, which should please Aperture users who have made the move to Photos and found it limiting. It's unclear which third parties will actually write editing plug-ins for Photos, but the capability will be there in El Capitan.

SPEED AND STABILITY

Let's not forget that bug fixes and speed boosts are features. And they're worth getting excited about. I've heard from many Mac users who have been frustrated by bugs they've encountered in Mavericks and Yosemite. Apple's upgrade cycle, providing a new version of OS X and iOS (and now maybe watchOS, too?) every single year, seems relentless. It's probably wise for the company to ease back to more of a tick-tock approach, with a major release followed by a year of retrenchment and focus on refining the new stuff that's been added in recent years.

It's unclear whether that new tick-tock approach is happening or not, but at least for this year Apple's OS releases seem to be tocking. That's good. Adding support for Metal on OS X may not seem like a great user feature, but it'll speed up apps, creative-professional suites, and games alike. Fixing bugs isn't necessarily something to be shouted to the stratosphere, but if you're someone who's been bitten by those bugs, it can be a huge relief. ☑

The home for business-minded Apple users on macworld.com.au

While many Mac, iPhone and iPad owners use their devices for purely personal pursuits, there are those who document, record and share as part of their day to day work. What are the most efficient and effective hardware and software options for your needs? How can you start using it immediately to drive sales, connect with colleagues, create powerful presentations, reduce communication charges?

We examine the latest technology for enterprise users to help you make the best use of your time and resources for your business.

Anthony Caruana - Editor of Macworld Australia

We started this section as we appreciate that technology is a critical foundation for the success of your business.







How to set up iCloud Family Sharing on a Mac

BY ROMAN LOYOLA

Family Sharing gives your family access to purchases in iTunes, iBooks and the App Store.

Apple introduced Family Sharing in iOS 8 as a way for a group of people to share purchased iTunes, iBooks and App Store items. If Mum buys a TV show, the other people in the group (up to six people) can access that show, too. Parents can control what the kids buy, and Family Sharing can be used with photos, calendars and more.

You can use Family Sharing on a Mac, as well as set up a Family Sharing account. In this how-to, we'll take you through the steps of setting up Family Sharing on a Mac. In order to use Family Sharing on your Mac, you must be running OS X Yosemite or later.

1. SET UP YOUR APPLE IDS

Chances are, you and your family members already have Apple IDs. You're asked to create one during the setup of a new Mac or iOS device. If you or a family member doesn't have an Apple ID, you need to create accounts. Here's how:

- Create an Apple ID on a Mac, PC or iOS device using iTunes.
- Already have an account, but can't remember your account information? Go to applied.apple.com and follow the instructions there.

You can create Apple IDs for children under 13, but first you must create a Family Sharing account.

You will also need a credit card that will be used as the Family Sharing's method of payment.

2. iCloud SYSTEM PREFERENCES

On your Mac, go to the Apple menu and select System Preferences. In the System Preferences window, select iCloud.

In the iCloud window, you'll see a listing of your iCloud services on the right. We're interested in the left side, specifically, the Set Up Family button. Click it and move on to the next step.

3. INTRO TO FAMILY SHARING

After you click Set Up Family, you'll go through the steps to create a Family Sharing account. The first window you'll encounter provides an introduction. If you want more info about Family Sharing, click the Details button, which will open your browser to Apple's Family Sharing website. Click Continue and we'll go to the next step.

4. THE ORGANISER

In Family Sharing, one person is designated as the family organiser. This person manages the members and pays for the items purchased by the group.

If you want someone else to be the organiser, click Continue anyway. You can designate a different organiser in the next step.

5. DIFFERENT ORGANISER

Here you can assign another person with the role of organiser. If you don't want to do this, click Continue.

If you do want to make another person the organiser, click Use A Different Account. This will take you to a window where you enter the Apple ID name and password of the person you want to be the organiser. Click Continue when you're ready to move on.

6. CREDIT CARD

In this step, the credit card associated with the Apple ID appears. It will be used when members of the Family Sharing account make a purchase.

To learn more about family purchases, click the About Family Purchases button. This will launch a browser window at Apple's website with information on family purchases and payments.

Click Continue.



7. SHARE LOCATION

You can let people know where you are (or at least where your device is) by activating this feature.

If you log in to your iCloud.com account, you can use Find My iPhone to locate your iOS devices as well as your Macs.

On an iOS device, this feature will share your location on Messages and Find My Friends.

Make a selection. If you decide to select Not Now, you can change this later in the iCloud system preference by clicking the Find My Mac box.

Click Continue.



8. ADD FAMILY MEMBERS

Now you can add up to five other family members to the account. A window will appear, with an Apple ID listing on the left, and an Add Family Member button on the right. Click the button to add a member.



9. ADULTS AND KIDS

For someone who has an Apple ID, enter the email address for that person's Apple ID account. You'll then be asked to enter the security code of the credit card on file. When you click Continue, you can either enter

the Apple ID password of the new member, or you can send an email invitation. After that, you're done.

Or you can create an Apple ID for a child. In this case, select the button for this option. Click Continue. Go to the next step in this tutorial.

10. CREATE A CHILD APPLE ID

To create an Apple ID for a child, fill out the form that appears on-screen. If the email address you are trying to create is taken, you'll be asked to try a new one.

When you fill out the info properly and click Continue, you'll be asked to confirm that you want to create the account.

The next few steps involve:

- entering the security code for your credit card
- choosing security questions
- iCloud and Game Center terms and conditions

- iTunes terms and conditions, and
- entering the Apple ID password of the organiser.

One more step and we're done.

11. ASK TO BUY

When you're done adding and creating Apple IDs, you'll be taken to the top level of the iCloud Family Sharing settings. If you click on a member entry on the left, you'll see a profile on the right. Here you can resend invitations, activate/deactivate the Ask To Buy option, and turn on or off the ability of that member to see your location.

To add another member, click on the + button on the lower left.

To remove a member, click on the - button.

To go back to these settings at a later date, go to *System Preferences* > *iCloud* and click the Manage Family button. You're done. ☒





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Seven ways to curb your iPhone's mobile data use

How to put a lid on your iPhone's mobile data use, and avoid nasty surprises on your wireless bill. BY BEN PATTERSON

Sure, four (or six, eight or more) gigabytes of mobile data probably sounded like a lot when you first signed up for your iPhone data plan. But thanks to the latest data-hungry iOS apps and features, a gigabyte of mobile data isn't what it used to be.

Indeed, you'd be amazed how quickly your iPhone (or your LTE-enabled iPad, for that matter) can gobble up mobile data – particularly if you're watching HD-quality Netflix videos, streaming iTunes Match songs, using your iPhone's personal hotspot with your laptop or letting iOS update your apps automatically. Read on for seven ways to put a lid on your iPhone's mobile data use, starting with...

1. STOP AUTOMATIC DOWNLOADS FROM USING MOBILE DATA

With the right settings enabled, iOS will automatically download any new music, apps or iBooks purchased by any of your iCloud-connected devices. Even better, your iPhone can automatically download and install updates for all your iOS apps.

While certainly convenient, automatic downloads can put a serious dent in your monthly mobile data allowance, especially if you have a lot of iOS apps installed.

Luckily, you can flip a switch to block mobile access to automatic downloads, and doing so also turns off the spigot for two other data-hogging features: iTunes Radio and iTunes Match.

Just tap Settings, iTunes and App Store, then flip off the Use Mobile Data switch.

The only downside is that you can't pick and choose which automatic download features can use mobile data; instead, it's an all-or-nothing deal. In other words, if you don't let your iPhone download app updates over mobile, you won't be able to stream iTunes Match tracks on your mobile network, either.

2. KEEP FACETIME CALLS SHORT AND SWEET

FaceTime makes for a great way to keep in touch with far-flung family and friends, as well as a surprisingly easy way to drain your monthly mobile data allowance.

You've got a couple of options when it comes to limiting FaceTime's mobile use: either exercise a little self-discipline when it comes to non-Wi-Fi video calls, or shut off FaceTime's mobile access completely.

If you picked option number two, tap Settings and then Mobile, and scroll down to the FaceTime setting (under the Use Mobile Data For heading) and flick the Off switch.

Bonus tip: you can turn off mobile access for any of your apps, not just FaceTime, from the Mobile settings screen.

3. EASY DOES IT WITH NETFLIX AND YOUTUBE

Whether you're stuck at an airport or cooling your heels in a hotel room, watching a movie on Netflix over your iPhone's speedy LTE connection can be a tempting diversion.

But think twice before binge-watching an entire season of *House of Cards* over LTE. Netflix (or another video-streaming service, for that matter) can easily chomp a gig or more of data an hour for HD-quality video. Indeed, a couple of HD Netflix movies could blow through an entire month of mobile data.

So take it easy when it comes to streaming Netflix, YouTube or other videos over mobile. Remember, even just a few minutes each day can add up.

If you simply can't live without Netflix while you're on the road, try dialling down your Netflix video quality to save bandwidth. Open your Netflix account in a desktop browser, visit the Your Account screen, click the Playback Settings screen, and then pick an option: Low (think sub-DVD quality, but only a third of a gigabyte of data use per hour), Medium (0.7GB an hour for SD-quality video), or High (3GB an hour or more for HD-plus quality).



4. TURN OFF AUTO-PLAYING VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

A recent update of Facebook's iOS app added auto-play videos, which start playing automatically as you scroll through your news feed.

It's a nifty feature, and the default Smart Auto-Play setting supposedly adjusts your auto-play video quality depending on your battery life and whether you're on a mobile network. Still, all those auto-playing videos can add up when it comes to mobile data.

If you'd rather turn off auto-play Facebook videos, try this: open the Facebook app on your iPhone, tap the More button in the bottom right corner of the screen, scroll down and tap Account Settings, then tap Videos, Auto-play. Flick off the Smart Auto-Play switch, then pick a new setting – ideally, either Use Wi-Fi Only or Never Play Videos Automatically.

5. USE A BROWSER WITH A MOBILE-FRIENDLY MODE

A little casual web browsing over your iPhone's LTE connection probably won't drain your monthly data allowance on its own. Again, though, it all adds up.

That's why frugal iPhone users would be well-served with a bandwidth-conscious mobile browser – specifically, one that 'crunches' web pages into smaller chunks that consume less mobile data.

Among the options: Opera Mini (go.macworld.com/opera), a free browser that shaves hefty chunks of data from web pages, and Google Chrome (go.macworld.com/chromemobile), which crunches web pages with its Google-hosted Data Saver feature (tap the menu button in the top corner of the screen, then tap Settings, Bandwidth, Data Saver).

6. SET YOUR PODCASTING APP TO ONLY USE WI-FI

Not that long ago, my wife and I had a brief but annoying cable internet outage at our house, meaning (horror

of horrors!) we had to rough it with LTE for a few days. Oh well, I thought; we're grown-ups, and we can live without Netflix for 48 hours, right?

So imagine my surprise when a rare text alert from my carrier landed on my phone a day or so later: somehow, we'd used more than 90 percent of our mobile data for the month. What happened?

Well, it turns out the podcast apps on our iPhones hadn't received the memo about being careful with bandwidth, and they dutifully downloaded a fistful of new podcasts – yes, including several lengthy video episodes. Oops.

Moral of the story: make sure your podcast manager of choice only downloads new podcasts over Wi-Fi, not mobile.

For the iOS Podcasts app, tap Settings, scroll down to Podcasts, then flip on the Only Download On Wi-Fi setting.

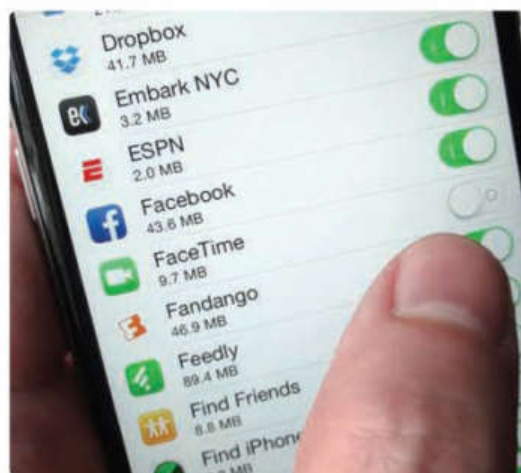
Don't see a similar setting for your favourite podcast app? You can always block its mobile access. Tap Settings, tap Mobile, find your podcast app in the big list of apps and flip off its mobile switch.

7. CAREFUL WHEN USING PERSONAL HOTSPOT

Turning your iPhone into a portable hotspot makes for a great way to keep your laptop connected while you're on the go – and it's also a recipe for a jumbo-size wireless bill.

Unless you tell your desktop or notebook PC otherwise, it'll assume it's using a no-limit internet connection, leaving it free to download massive system and app updates, grab file attachments from your email provider, sync your Dropbox and Google Drive folders, and perform any number of data-hogging activities.

The good news is that newer iMacs and MacBooks will automatically cool it when it comes to giant system updates over your iPhone's mobile hotspot. Similarly, if you're



using Windows 8 or better, you can designate your Personal Hotspot as a 'metered connection'; just open the Settings panel on the right side of the screen, click the Network icon, right-click the name of your mobile hotspot, and select Set As Metered Connection.

That said, even the 'metered connection' flag won't stop your laptop from syncing, say, those massive video files in your Dropbox, or pinging Outlook for new messages and attachments every five minutes.

Make sure to pause any file-syncing apps on your desktop before you connect using your iOS Personal Hotspot, and consider using a web client for checking email. Users of iTunes on the desktop should look out for automatic podcast, music and video downloads. And, yes, previous warnings about Netflix, YouTube and other video-streaming services still apply.

You can use the Activity Monitor app on your Mac to keep an eye on your data usage – just make sure the Network tab is selected. On a Windows 8 or better PC, you can check your bandwidth by right-clicking your data connection and selecting Show Estimated Data Usage.

You can stop iOS's automatic downloads feature from draining your monthly data allowance by blocking its access to mobile data. ☞



Fire up your Mac's firewall

BY JEFFREY BATTERSBY

Worried about your networked Mac? Protect yourself with OS X's built-in firewall. Here's how.

After the Working Mac column about scanning your Mac for viruses, I received an email message from Yolanda: "Hope you can help your readers with something that I haven't found. I've just purchased my first Mac after being on Windows for about

15 years, so I'm looking around for reputable recommendations of free and good antivirus/firewall programs."

The article Yolanda linked to recommended ClamXav for scanning your Mac for viruses, but Yolanda was correct, there was no mention made of firewall applications.

Most people, whether you're using a Mac or a PC, are aware that commercial virus scanning applications such as Norton Security not only provide virus and malware protection, they also include firewall protection.

What's a firewall? In the simplest terms, it's hardware on your network or a piece of software on your computer that limits the way other computers can send data to or receive data from your Mac.

While you can certainly spend money on firewall applications for your Mac – the aforementioned Norton Security application will set you back a minimum of US\$45 per year – your Mac, no surprise, already includes

an excellent, built-in, free application-level firewall that, with minimal configuration, will do everything you need. So, why spend anything at all, when you can have great for free?

You'll find your Mac's firewall in the Security & Privacy preference in the System Preferences app:

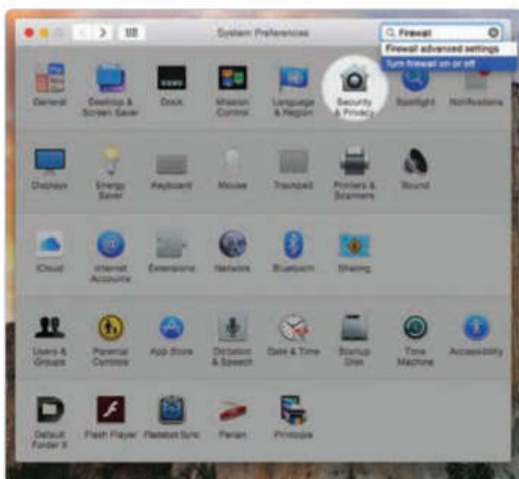
- open System Preferences
- click Security & Privacy, or
- type Firewall in System Preferences' search field and select Turn Firewall On Or Off.

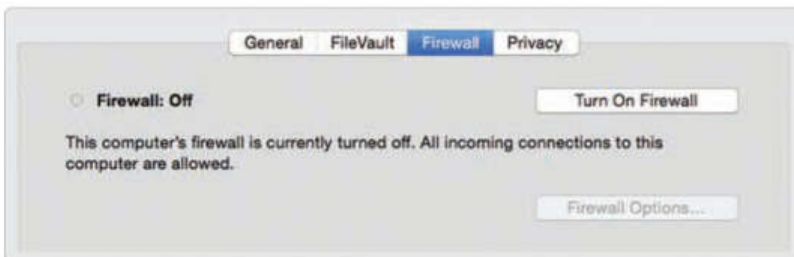
Before you can make changes to the Security and Privacy preference you need to authenticate as an administrator:

- click the lock at the bottom left of the Security & Privacy preference, and
- enter your password.

To start using the firewall, once you've entered your password, all you need to do is click the button that says Turn On Firewall.

That's it! But there's more to the built-in firewall than meets the eye, so





let's take a look at what's going on behind the scenes:

- click the button that says Firewall Options.

Depending on the applications you have running and which sharing services you have turned on, what you'll see when you look at Firewall Options may be a little different than what you see in the screenshot we use to illustrate the step here:

If you don't see anything, this means you don't currently have any applications running that are sending or receiving network traffic.

If you do see something in the list, it means that the application-level firewall trusts that application and is allowing it to send and receive network traffic. How and why the firewall trusts an application is more


than we can go into in detail here, but it's because of something called Code Signing Certificates (go.macworld.com/code-sign), which Apple only issues to trusted applications. Any application with one of these trusted certificates can request and be granted access to allow traffic to pass through the application-level firewall.

Let's see how this works automatically:

- make sure that the only box that's checked is the one that reads Automatically Allow Signed Software To Receive Incoming Connections
- take note of the applications noted in the list of allowed applications
- click OK
- open the Sharing preference in System Preferences

- put a check in the box that says File Sharing or, if that's already selected, put a check in one of the other sharing boxes
- reopen the Security & Privacy preference
- click the Firewall Options button, and
- look at the list of allowed applications.

If you selected File Sharing in the Sharing preference, you should now see File Sharing (AFP, SMB) in the list of allowed applications.

The beauty of Apple's built-in application-level firewall is that you don't need to do anything other than turn it on. Your Mac will take care of determining whether or not an application should be allowed to send and receive network traffic. 

YOU CAN ASK THE **MACWORLD AUSTRALIA** TEAM ANY MAC- OR APPLE-RELATED QUESTIONS BY EMAILING EDITOR@MACWORLD.COM.AU. ANSWERS THIS MONTH BY GLENN FLEISHMAN.

STM READER TIP

How not to clean your Apple Watch.

Last week I broke my right wrist, the one I wear my new Apple watch on. Not to be deterred I just simply removed a bangle I wear on the left arm and replaced it with the watch.

So, now wearing the watch 'on the other arm', I was hand washing a couple of white shirts in a bucket. Not thinking at all, I immersed the Apple Watch four times, and it was completely under the washing water.

I pulled the watch off the left wrist, gave it a wipe, removed the strap, gave it another wipe and thought, 'Well, it's still working.' My next thought was, 'Hit it with the charger, as it generates plenty of warmth in the watch body.' So I did this, and everything was great.

Two days down the track, I noticed some 'screen burn' – a halo-looking effect.

Having knowingly dunked my new watch (everything appeared OK), I thought, 'Bugger this, I have Apple care, I'll just ring them and get a new one.'

I spent an hour or so talking to Apple about the watch and the help desk said, "I'll call you back after doing some research", which he did. I was directed to go to *Settings > General > Accessibility > Reduce motion On/Off*, which I turned off. Problem solved.

Gotta love Apple. Who would have thought you could completely immerse your watch four times and it's like new still, and cleaner?

Mick

Well, while we wouldn't recommend this as a cleaning method, Mick's use of Apple Care and sharing the Reduce motion option is a winning strategy. There are so many options buried inside the configuration settings of our devices that we never know what will help in any given situation.

Glenn Fleishmann

EACH MONTH, STM gives a prize to the *Macworld Australia* reader who submits the best and most useful tip (undocumented tips preferred). This month's prize is a comfortable and portable STM sequel small laptop shoulder bag worth \$99.95.

Your daily gear travels in sleek protective style. The sequel is the perfect, just the essentials bag for your 13in laptop, tablet, a couple of files, cords and chargers.

Features:

- main flap secured with light but durable brushed aluminium buckle with easy one-handed click-and-go design
- laptop compartment lined with soft nylux and high-density foam to protect most 13in screens (will hold most laptops from 12-14in)
- front zippered stealth pocket is lined and accessible without opening main flap – perfect for sunnies or a phone
- dedicated tablet slip pocket with soft nylux lining
- organisational front pocket for biz cards, pens, keys, etc
- slip rear pocket for some reading material with quick drop phone pocket
- luggage pass through secures the bag to the handle of your wheeled travel piece
- padded, non-slip shoulder pad for a comfortable carry
- quick cam-adjust shoulder strap for both cross body and shoulder carries, and
- water resistant 320D brushed poly main fabric with 640D reinforced bottom fabric

www.stmbags.com.au

WHERE DID AIRPORT UTILITY GO?

I have a 13in laptop at home using previous AirPort Utility software. I lost it by using 'clean my Mac' software. How do I restore the lost program?

Silvain Gilbert

Apple updated its AirPort Utility from version 5, which runs on pre-Lion Macs, to version 6 in 2012. Version 5 also ran on Lion and, if memory serves, Mountain Lion. If you're running an older version of OS X, you may need version 5.5.3 or 5.6.1.

Although Apple doesn't make most of its utility software available separately – you have to reinstall OS X or copy an application from another Mac – it does have the entire history of AirPort firmware and utility software available for download (go.macworld.com/appleairportsw). You can sort through that page to find the appropriate version. Click Load More Results at the bottom if you don't see the version you need.

Also note that Apple is retro: the AirPort Extreme Card shown here was for sale from about 2003 to 2009 for late-generation PowerPC-based Macs.





REPARTITIONING A DRIVE TO REMOVE A PARTITION

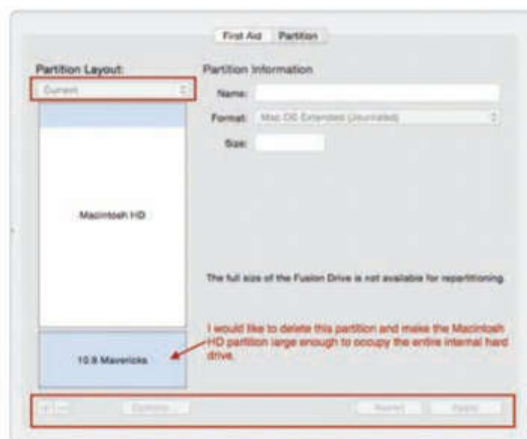
L Faye Russell had to set up separate Mavericks and Yosemite bootable partitions in order to deal with crashing programs in Yosemite. However, the Mac used a Fusion drive (go.macworld.com/fusiondrive), and that presented an issue.

I would like to delete the Mavericks partition and expand the Yosemite partition to encompass the entire internal hard drive (i.e. return my hard drive to a single partition). However, the controls for doing this in Disk Utility are all unavailable.

L Faye Russell

Normally, if you use the GUID Partition Scheme to format a drive – it's the default format for new Macs – you can create and resize partitions at will. A drive is a physical thing, while partitions are 'soft' or 'logical', managed by the startup firmware (EFI) and operating system.

But Fusion is a finicky beast. For those who don't have a Fusion drive, it's a combination of fast SSD storage and a slower hard disk. OS X automatically optimises storage, so that more frequently used files move to the SSD. This gives you some of the advantages of SSD, such as a fast startup time, without the expense of an SSD the size of your entire volume, nor having to manage moving files around yourself or fit the entire OS on your startup SSD volume.



Apple notes that you can only create a single partition (support.apple.com/en-us/HT202574) on a Fusion drive, and Disk Utility places this separate partition exclusively on the hard drive. Once created, Apple offers no advice, nor can I find anyone with advice to offer, on deleting the partition without fully erasing the drive. Since you have a Fusion system, you'd also want to be sure to initialise it via OS X Recovery, which can correctly restore the state.

A recent Mac 911 provides details on cloning and restoring (go.macworld.com/cloning) an OS X volume. It's tedious, but it would regain your lost storage.

MIGRATION TROUBLES

I'm trying to restore a Time Machine backup of late 2009 MacBook that was running Yosemite to a mid-2010 MacBook currently running Lion. Should I update the 2010 MacBook to Yosemite first?

Mike Imbrogo

I don't believe it's ever possible to use a newer Time Machine backup to restore to an older version of OS X. You may be able to retrieve files and not the entire system, but even then I'd worry that there would be an incompatibility.

For best results, upgrade to Yosemite first, since it sounds like that's what you're planning. If you intend to wipe the 2010 MacBook for Yosemite, you can then restore from the Time Machine backup during the setup process.

Sarah Melling migrated from a Windows PC to a Mac, and all the creation and modification dates were lost on her artwork files, which she uses for finding and sorting. Unfortunately, there's no way to solve this in migration, and since you've already transferred the files, you probably want a way to fix it.

A Better Finder (US\$14.95, publicspace.net/ABetterFinderAttributes)

has the option to read EXIF data from some image formats, which is metadata stored by cameras and other software that can include the creation date.

If your files have the creation data embedded in this way, A Better Finder can modify selected files to have a Finder-created date that matches that embedded information.

You could also try File Date Changer 5 (US\$9, publicspace.net/FileDateChanger), which allows changing the dates on one or more files as a batch, though you have to specify the dates manually. This feature is included in A Better Finder.

I've been migrating files from Mac to Mac for about 20 years now. I'm going to get a new iMac this summer. Is it better to start fresh and just copy files/folders, or does it matter?

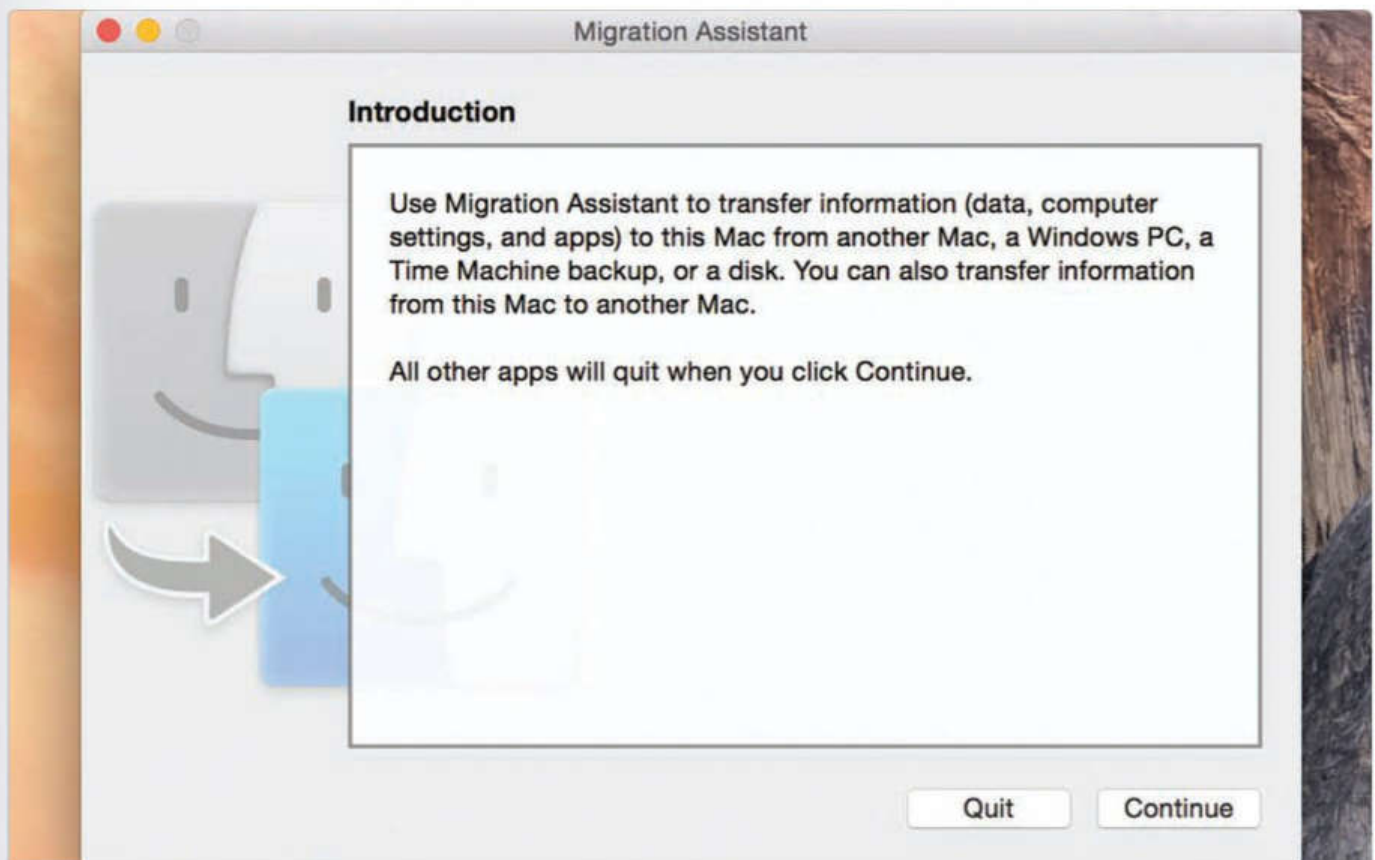
Caryn Cameron

It's a mixed bag. I've also been migrating Macs for many years, and I typically use Migration Assistant as it's generally improved enough that I can rely on it to copy everything.

With the 12in MacBook, however, both the US Macworld's executive editor Susie Ochs and I hit a stalling problem the first time we tried. Ted van den Bergh had a similar problem:

Three times I tried to transfer the Applications folder, and the Migration Assistant does all the work as you would expect, then stops with the finish in sight. Less than one minute to go... nothing happens.

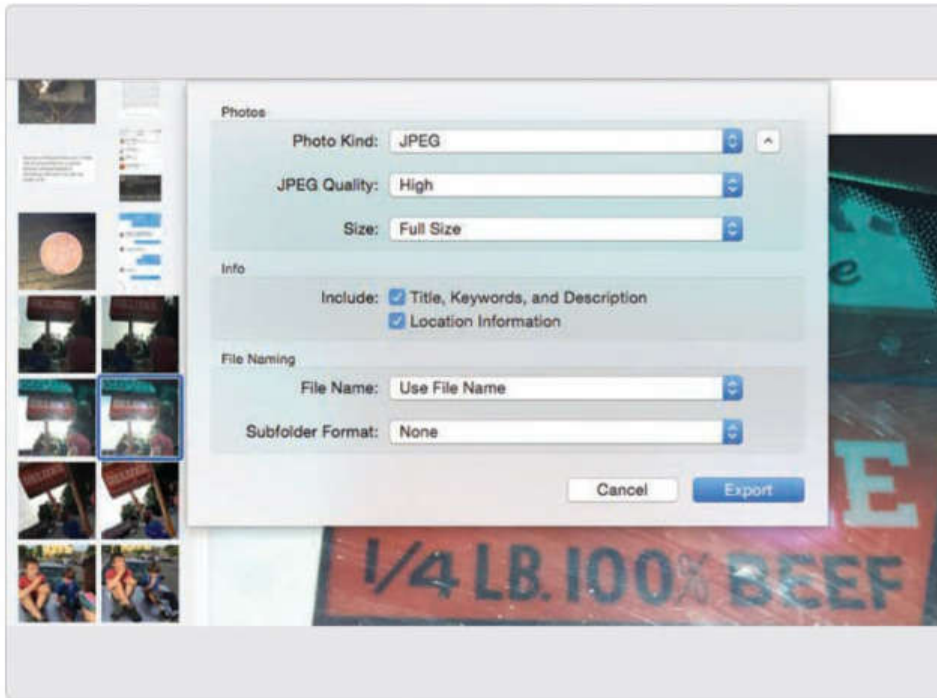
In my and Susie's case, we had to force a shutdown, restart and try again. Then it worked for each of us the second time. Several colleagues have told us they've experienced the same thing, and it may have to do with a timeout related to iCloud logins.



FROM IPHOTO TO PHOTOS

■ Ole Karstad liked to use copy and paste from iPhoto to other software. However, in Photos he only gets a small image this way. He wonders if there's a workaround.

Unfortunately, this appears to be the new default and unchangeable behaviour in Photos. If you select a photo and the Edit > Copy menu is available (which it typically is), Photos automatically downsamples to 1024 pixels maximum in the longest dimension in my test.



To use a different resolution, you have to select the photo and choose File Export > Export 1 Photo. Choose Export Unmodified if you want the original without any changes you may have made through the editing options in Photos; that corresponds to exporting Original in iPhoto.

You can also drag the image or a set of images to the Finder, which keeps the full resolution, and converts everything but GIF, JPEG and PNG files (such as RAW camera files) to a JPEG.

I DO NOT 'LIKE' THIS FACEBOOK EXPORT

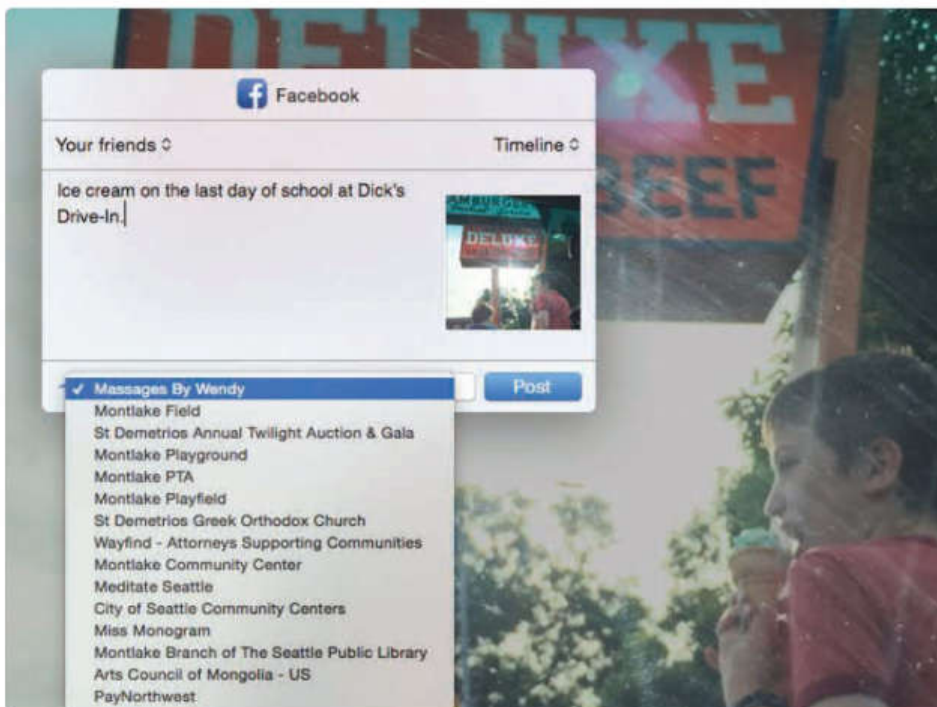
■ Lowell Nelson tried a number of ways to get Photos to play nicely with his workflow for posting images to Facebook. But Apple seems to have left out too much integration to make his life easy – the ability to select images from within Photos from other apps or the Finder just isn't there yet. (It probably will be in El Capitan.)

Lowell tried the Add Photos/Video picker in Safari and Firefox from his Facebook page. Nope. He tried dragging a photo from Photos into the Facebook app's page – but the browsers both interpret this as a link, not an image.

While Photos has a built-in Share > Facebook option at the upper right, he notes, "This only works if you don't want to tag anybody or set the location of your post. When I try to set location, I only get suggestions of locations that are near the location of my Mac, not access to all of Facebook's locations, and no tags available."

His workaround? He drags a photo to the desktop to make it a file he can manipulate. (Exporting would work, too, with more steps, but more control over the image size.)

I still see iPhoto as an option in various apps, Apple's and others, and, as Lowell also found, Mail is one of the few programs updated to let you use a Photos media browser as well as an iPhotos one. ☒



Waterproof sound

Adam Turner investigates which audio devices fare best when it comes to coping with H₂O.

Logitech UE Roll portable speaker

It's highly portable, but Logitech's UE Roll is also a bit of a lightweight when it comes to sound quality.

Easy to slip in your bag, the discus-shaped UE Roll is a follow-up to Logitech's cylindrical UE Boom. The UE Roll only weighs 330g and, when it's time to party, there's a versatile elastic strap on the back, letting you strap the speaker to a pole, hang it from a hook or even attach it to your bag.

The UE Roll is IPX7 waterproof, meaning it can survive depths of one metre for up to 30 minutes. That certainly gives you confidence to venture outdoors without concern about inclement weather, accidental splashes or even an unexpected dip. The UE Boom is only rated a splash-proof IPX4.

Along with Bluetooth connectivity for talking to your iGadgets, the UE Roll features a 3.5mm audio line-in – hidden by a rubber flap, which doesn't seal as tightly as you may expect. There's also a microUSB port for charging, with the battery good for up to nine hours, but there's no USB cable or charger in the box.

Sit it face up and the UE Roll throws sound in all directions, but it's not quite the life of the party. While it's surprisingly loud, the sound is thin due to the mediocre bass. You can use the free smartphone app to adjust the equaliser – which does little to improve the low-end – or create a stereo pair with a second speaker.

It makes for quite a fashion statement, but the UE Roll puts style before substance. For around the same price, you'll get better sound from a UE Boom speaker without adding much extra weight to your travel bag. You'd only opt for the UE Roll if you seriously expect that its IPX7 waterproof rating may save the day.



\$149.95 / LOGITECH
www.logitech.com.au

PROS Portable

CONS Mediocre sound

Fugoo Tough portable speaker

Small but sturdy, the Fugoo Tough is the portable speaker for all occasions.

Tipping the scales at 643g, the Fugoo isn't light, but it's only 20cm long, so you can still slip it into a carry bag. The weight is the trade-off for a rugged design – with the solid aluminium Tough shell, it's designed to survive a two-metre drop and its IP67 rating means that it's dustproof as well as waterproof to a depth of one metre for up to 30 minutes.

What's particularly interesting about the Fugoo is that you can buy replacement shells or 'jackets' for the speaker, so it can slip into something more comfortable. Along with the Tough, there are also 'Sport' and 'Style' jackets available in a range of colours, plus you can buy mounts to attach the speaker just about anywhere. These other jackets aren't as rugged, but at least you've got the option of trading substance for style.

The speaker features Bluetooth (with hands-free calls), a 3.5mm audio line-in and a microUSB port for charging (charger and cable included) with an impressive 40-hour battery life. Rather than beeping to tell you what mode it's in, the Fugoo actually talks to you – speaking aloud when you connect and disconnect a device or when the battery is running low.

When it comes to sound quality, the Fugoo isn't quite as loud as Logitech's UE Roll; it wouldn't drive an outdoor dance party. It does pack a lot more low-end punch than the UE Roll, as you'd expect for the extra price, thanks to two woofers and two passive radiators that help the sound travel. The compromise is at the high-end and the Fugoo will sound too brash for some ears.

With its rugged design and long battery life, the Fugoo could make for a decent camping speaker, if you're prepared to haul around the extra weight.



\$339.95 / FUGOO
www.fugoo.com

PROS Rugged; versatile

CONS Brash sound



OUTSTANDING



VERY GOOD



GOOD



FLAWED



UNACCEPTABLE

BlueAnt PUMP HD Sportbuds

BlueAnt's wireless PUMP HD Sportbuds are for people who like to get hot and sweaty.

The PUMP HD Sportbuds clip over your ears looking like chunky, old-style hearing aids – but no one is likely to notice as you rush past them. The Sportbuds sit snugly on your ears, with a short cable running between them behind your head. They're unlikely to be dislodged by vigorous exercise, even if you wear glasses, but you can attach stabilisers, which rest against the inside of your ear to stop them working loose from your ear canal.

In the box, you'll find a selection of different-sized earbud tips – three rubber sets and one set of foam 'awareness' tips to let in more noise from the world around you. The whole thing is light and comfortable enough that you'll soon forget you're wearing them once you start your workout.

These Bluetooth earbuds have built-in controls and support hands-free calls, but there's no cable jack if you want to plug them straight into an audio device. The only connector is a microUSB port for charging, hidden under a rubber flap, and you'll get eight hours from a single charge – which should get you through the longest workout. The sound is a little flat, but it probably won't bother you once you're breaking a sweat.

With an IP67 rating, the Sportbuds are dustproof as well as waterproof to a depth of one metre for up to 30 minutes. They're designed to survive sweaty, dirty workouts in adverse weather conditions, and be rinsed under the tap afterwards. They're no good for swimming laps; you can happily wear them in the pool, but the sound cuts out as soon as your head goes under the water – that's the nature of Bluetooth.

They're overkill for casual joggers, but if you tend to get down and dirty, these Sportbuds may be for you.

**\$119.95 / BLUEANT**www.myblueant.com**PROS** Light; comfortable**CONS** No cable option

LifeProof FRĒ Power iPhone 6 case

With a sturdy waterproof design and a built-in battery, LifeProof's FRĒ Power iPhone 6 case is prepared for anything.

If you're a fan of naked smartphones, then this case is a bit of a handful, doubling the weight and thickness of the iPhone 6. In return you get IP68 protection – making your phone dustproof as well as waterproof to a depth of two metres for an hour. It's designed to survive a two-metre drop and there's a screen protector to ward off scratches, but the phone's screen remains responsive and you can still use the Touch ID fingerprint reader.

Some of the case's bulk is due to the built-in 2600 mAh battery, which will almost completely recharge the iPhone 6. Unfortunately, you lose access to the phone's Lightning port, instead relying on the case's microUSB port (thankfully, iTunes on your Mac will still recognise your phone). You charge via the microUSB port, servicing the phone before the case. Late in the day you can press a button on the case to top up the phone's battery; it will automatically cut the power when the phone is fully charged.

The microUSB port may throw your collection of iPhone accessories into disarray, as removing the case is a cumbersome process, but LifeProof does sell accessories for the case, such as armbands and car mounts.

When it's time to listen to music, you can unscrew the cover from the headphone jack, but it's also a hassle and you may need to carry around the supplied adapter for your headphones of choice. Bluetooth headphones are more practical, especially when you're not worried about running down the phone's battery.

The LifeProof FRĒ Power is overkill for most people, but if you're a fan of the great outdoors or are called on to do dirty jobs, then it may make for a sensible insurance policy.

**\$179.95 / LIFEPROOF**www.lifeproof.com**PROS** Built-in battery**CONS** Bulky



Bose QC20

Until recently, noise-cancelling headphones were quite bulky and relied on covering your entire ear in order to insulate you from ambient noise. Earbuds struggled to properly block sound out – until now.

The Bose QC20 buds tick most of the boxes for a set of earbuds for travellers and those looking for a compact yet high quality listening device. The silicone earpieces fit well in our ears. Unlike most buds, the unusual moulding, which Bose calls its StayHear+ tips, look like something from a sci-fi prop room. However, they formed a tight seal with our ear canal and didn't fall out while we were walking around. Even after wearing the QC20s for a couple of hours, we didn't feel any discomfort.

The active noise-cancelling electronics are housed in a rectangular module that is about 2cm from the end of the 3.5mm headphone jack. That's where the power switch is found, as well as an LED to indicate the charging status and battery level, and another to let you know the headphones are properly connected.

An inline control houses a volume control, as well as a central button that works as a play/pause control or answer/hang-up button. There's also another button that disables the active noise-cancelling capability – a handy feature if battery life is limited.

Sound quality was excellent. We tested the QC20s in a number of different situations. While sitting on a plane, where the ambient noise of the engines can be a real hindrance to enjoying music or movies, the active noise-cancelling was very effective. The steady hum of the engines was all but removed. We found we could use the headphones, even disconnected from a music or movie source, just to dull the sound so we could rest.

While sitting in cafés, airport lounges and other environments where there's a hubbub of background sound, the QC20s performed admirably, providing us with some relief so we could listen to our tunes while working or enjoying some relaxation time.


We listened to lots of different musical genres, movies and TV shows on our iPhone, MacBook and iPad. In all cases, we found the sound quality to be excellent. While true audiophiles may scoff at using earbuds to listen to music, we think they may be pleasantly surprised at the richness of the sound.

Unlike many of the headphones we test, Bose hasn't tuned the QC20s to deliver excessive bass. Aside from ensuring the music we listened to was reproduced accurately, our experience is we can listen to music or watch a movie for a longer period before feeling any discomfort.

Active noise cancellation relies on power. The control module on the

QC20s houses a lithium ion battery that Bose boasts will deliver 16 hours of playtime on a two-hour charge. The battery is sealed in the unit and, therefore, not replaceable. Charging is via a micro-USB cable that's stashed in the neat zip case Bose includes with the QC20s.

What didn't we like? That control module makes it difficult to put your iPhone in your pocket while connected to the QC20s. As it's only a couple of centimetres from the end of the cable, it hangs somewhat awkwardly in our view. However, given the sound quality, portability and comfort, this is a relatively minor quibble.

At almost \$400, the Bose QC20 headphones are priced at the premium end of the market. You can get your hands on the QC25 headphones for the same price if you don't like buds. But if you like buds, then the QC20s will fit the bill for a set of noise-cancelling headphones if you have the budget. 

– ANTHONY CARUANA



BOSE
www.bose.com

PROS Comfort; sound quality

CONS A little cumbersome

\$399



HDHomeRun Connect network TV tuner

Rather than chaining you to your couch, SiliconDust's HDHomeRun Connect lets you watch live free-to-air television on practically any device around your home.

The HDHomeRun Connect doesn't feature an HDMI socket for connecting to your television. On the back you'll only find power, Ethernet and TV aerial sockets. The tiny box's job is to act as a DLNA server, making the free-to-air channels available to any DLNA-compatible media player around your home.

There's no built-in Wi-Fi, so the challenge in some homes will be finding a spot for the HDHomeRun Connect with easy access to both an Ethernet connection and an aerial socket. A Wi-Fi to Ethernet adapter like Apple's Airport Express, or perhaps a Powerline AV adapter, could help with this.

The box features two HD digital TV tuners, so two viewers can watch different channels simultaneously. A third viewer is out of luck; they can't even watch one of the channels already in use. Another shortcoming is that it only streams video across your home network, but not out over the internet. There are no built-in recording features, but they are on the roadmap.

Reliance on DLNA means that you don't need special playback software to watch TV, just about any DLNA-capable media player on any device should do the trick. The only caveat is

that Australia's five high-def digital TV channels tend to use AC3-DTS audio, which not every app or device will support.


On an iPhone or iPad you'll get good results from the AirPlayer media player app. The picture quality is excellent with perfect audio sync and there's only a delay of a few seconds on live broadcasts. The platform-agnostic nature of DLNA means the HDHomeRun Connect also plays nicely with Android (try the official HDHomeRun app) and Windows Phone (try the MoliPlayer app), making it a handy device for blended households.

The HDHomeRun Connect also works with desktop computers, whether they be Mac OS, Windows or Linux. The Kodi media player (formerly XBMC) is a good starting place on your Mac, as there's already an HDHomeRun Connect plug-in available. By default, the HDHomeRun Connect doesn't stream to Plex apps, but you might experiment with the HDSurfer plug-in for Plex.

You can also use Elgato's EyeTV 3 software to tap into the HDHomeRun Connect from your Mac to watch and record live TV across your home network (with support for the IceTV electronic program guide). The latest version (EyeTV 3.6.8) doesn't cooperate – recognising the box, but refusing to stream video. This may change, but for now I got it up and running with the older EyeTV 3.6.5 desktop software. Unfortunately,

I couldn't get the Elgato iOS apps to recognise the HDHomeRun Connect.

The flexibility of DLNA means you can also watch TV via the HDHomeRun Connect on a wide range of set-top boxes, Blu-ray players, games consoles and smart TVs around your home (although DLNA compatibility can be fickle). It works fine with the Xbox 360, Xbox One and PlayStation 3, but not the PlayStation 4 because Sony still refuses to bless it with DLNA. As for the Apple TV, you can use AirPlay screen mirroring to send the picture from an iOS app like AirPlayer, but the extra leg across your Wi-Fi network can introduce lag and lip-sync issues. Alternatively, you might hack the Apple TV to add DLNA features.

Bottom line. Apart from the lack of remote access across the internet, it's hard to find fault with SiliconDust's HDHomeRun Connect. It's the perfect way to fling live television to the far corners of your home, whatever your taste in gadgets. 

– ADAM TURNER



SILICONDUST
www.silicondust.com

PROS Two simultaneous streams; platform agnostic

CONS Can't stream across the internet

\$219.95



QuarkXPress 2015

Recent versions of QuarkXPress added features that were requested by Quark's users. QuarkXPress 2015 continues this strategy. For example, it has changed its version numbering scheme to indicate the year of release and the product is still offered with a traditional perpetual licence rather than requiring an ongoing rental fee.

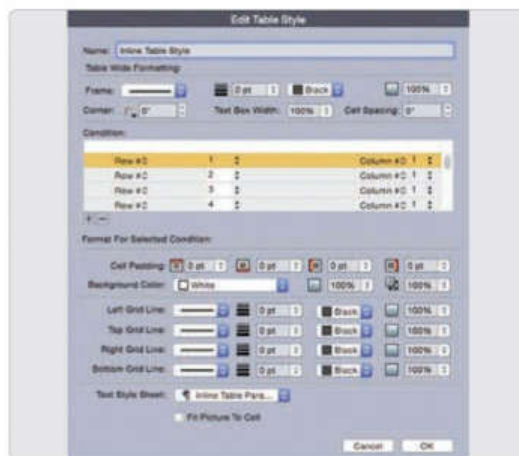
New features include Fixed-Layout eBooks, text variables that automatically populate content such as running headers, a new table feature with Excel integration, automatic footnotes and endnotes, and PDF/X-4 output.



EPUB ENHANCEMENTS

The ePub format has two variants: Reflowable, commonly used for novels, textbooks and other simple text-and-pictures publications; and the newer Fixed Layout ePub, the preferred format for publications the layout of which is as important as its text and pictures.

QuarkXPress 2015 supports both Fixed and Reflowable eBooks. While you cannot export a Fixed Layout ePub from an existing Print layout, you can still build a Reflowable ePub from an existing Print layout. There are benefits and drawbacks to this forked approach. The main benefit to Quark's approach is that you can design one layout for your eBook and let QuarkXPress optimise its page size and special features for each output format.



Once inside your new eBook document, you can use all the rich layout tools in QuarkXPress, including sharing Style Sheets, Colors, Item Styles, Footnote Styles and other attributes across Print, App Studio and eBook layouts. This makes it easier to keep an identity consistent across multiple layouts.

Four years ago, Quark's App Studio was the first user-friendly tool to convert publications into complex, interactive iOS apps. With the recent ratification of the EPUB 3 standard, Quark has now migrated its HTML5-based App Studio tools into all the QuarkXPress 2015 layout, so you can now use the familiar App Studio interface to build interactivity into ePub files.

The existing Reflowable ePub features have also been enhanced. You can now apply an unlimited number of Style Sheets and use the new HTML5 palette to add audio and video interactivity to items. Items on the Pasteboard in the reflow can be included and Callout Anchors can be used to insert pictures into the text flow without needing to split the Story into multiple components.

CONTENT VARIABLES

Previous versions of QuarkXPress let you repeat common text throughout multiple layouts, so that when you change one, they all change. Now you can also create Content Variables that grab information from one place and display it elsewhere.

TABLE ENHANCEMENTS

The table feature in QuarkXPress was overdue for an overhaul. But rather than enhancing the existing table feature, Quark chose to create a new Inline Table feature. You can apply a table style to inline tables, which keeps multiple tables formatted similarly, and the table data can be linked to an external Excel spreadsheet.

VERIFIED PDF/X-4 OUTPUT

Printing professionals have been clamouring for QuarkXPress to output to the PDF/X-4 standard for quite some time. This PDF standard supports native transparency and DeviceN as the output colour model, which creates smaller PDF files that print faster and are essential to some workflows. Specifically, imported graphics in PDF, AI and PSD format maintain their native transparency when exported from QuarkXPress. This issue is so important that the default PDF Output style in QuarkXPress 2015 has been changed to export native transparency instead of flattening it.

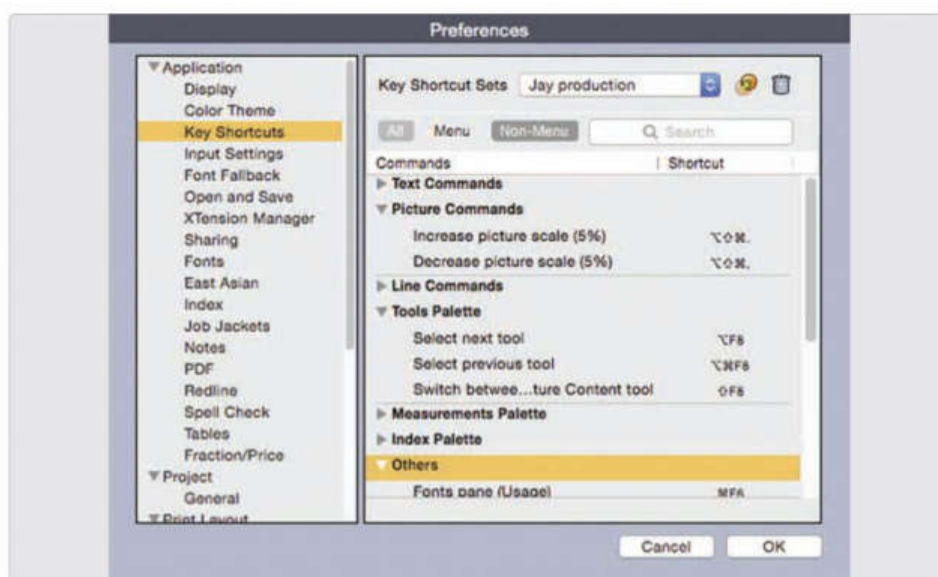
SUPPORT FOR LEGACY DOCUMENTS

One important issue must be noted: QuarkXPress 2015 will only open documents last saved by QuarkXPress version 7 or higher. If you have older documents, be sure to download Quark's free QuarkXPress Document Converter application that opens legacy files from versions 3 to 6 and saves them in a format that QuarkXPress 10 and 2015 can open.

In addition, Quark has dropped support for the bitmapped frames available in earlier versions of QuarkXPress. When you open a legacy document that uses one of these frames, QuarkXPress 2015 alerts you that these frames are no longer supported. There is no easy workaround.

THE SMALL IMPROVEMENTS

Every mature application benefits by refining the ways its daily users interact with it. Having completely overhauled the QuarkXPress interface several versions ago, Quark has now improved many of the rough spots identified by its users. The first change is that there is no installer – instead, you simply drag the application to your Applications folder. Another under-the-hood change will be enjoyed far longer:



QuarkXPress 2015 is now a 64-bit application, resulting in dramatically faster viewing of imported graphics and exporting of PDFs and, since the text engine is now multi-threaded, you can more fluidly work with complex text objects such as tables.

Pages can now be much larger: up to 224 by 224in instead of the previous limit of 48 by 48in, and you can now save named, custom-size pre-sets for new layouts. To accommodate these larger page sizes, you can now scale pictures up to 5000 percent.


Additional small improvements make creating your layouts much more fun. For example, a new Format Painter lets you copy attributes from text and apply them to other text. You'll find it in the Home and Character tabs of the Measurements palette, and it also has keyboard shortcuts. Speaking of which, you can now assign or change keyboard shortcuts for menu items or other actions, and save them as custom sets.

You can also now filter the items in the Style Sheets, Colors, Hyperlinks and Content Variables palettes by name, which is handy since these palettes can often be quite lengthy. Thankfully, WYSIWYG font menus can once again be disabled – QuarkXPress 10 had inexplicably removed that ability.

Other practical improvements include the ability to automatically

view a PDF after exporting it, and the ability to collect all the assets from all the layouts in a project by using Collect For Output – previously, only the assets from the current layout could be collected. You can now use the Usage dialogue to relink any imported picture to a different picture file, and the Usage dialogue now displays filenames without cropping long names to fit.

Bottom line. QuarkXPress 2015 is a valuable upgrade for QuarkXPress users who make ePub files, work with lots of tables or footnotes, or need running headers. By also providing the top 10 most-requested feature improvements, Quark has made this an upgrade every user will want.

To assist in creating a Fixed Layout ePub, QuarkXPress 2015 provides standard device page-size options, such as iPad and Kindle Fire. 

– JAY J NELSON



QUARK

www.quark.com

PROS Dramatically enhanced ePub and long document features

CONS None significant

US\$849; US\$349 UPGRADE FROM VERSIONS 3 TO 10; US\$199 EDUCATION PRICE



Pencil

When the iPad was first released, one of the criticisms levelled by some experts was that the lack of a dedicated stylus made input difficult and would limit the device's appeal. Well, millions of units later, after defining a completely new product category, Apple proved those experts wrong – kind of. In response to those criticisms, the developer and accessory ecosystem that developed around the iPad created styli that could be used with the iPad. The trouble is, they were little more than dumb sticks with a piece of rubber on the end.

The app development gurus at 53 created Paper. This app was recognised by Apple as the iPad App of the Year. Paper makes it easy to capture ideas, text, diagrams and all sorts of titbits of information – the sort of thing you'd use a paper and pencil to capture. Or perhaps to doodle with while you're bored in a meeting.

53 has developed its own stylus to complement paper. Dubbed 'Pencil', this stylus looks and feels like a carpenter's pencil in the hand. Rather than being a long cylinder like the 2B you always forget to take to art class, it's a long rectangular prism that fits comfortably in your hand.

The Pencil is linked to your iPad via Bluetooth. Once Bluetooth is enabled

on your iPad – we tested the pencil on an iPad Air 2 running beta 5 of iOS 9 – you simply hold the tip of the Pencil on an icon on the pen and colour palette in Paper. The process took just a few seconds.

The tip of the Pencil can be pulled out. This is how the device is charged. The end of the tip, which is usually hidden inside the Pencil's housing, has a USB connector that you simply connect to a USB port. A full charge takes about 90 minutes and will keep the Pencil running for about a month according to 53. There's no battery indicator, so we'd suggest making a habit of charging it every couple of weeks unless you fancy a game of battery Russian roulette.

Unlike the carpenter's tool, the Pencil's top end is an eraser. So, while we were drawing and scribbling in Paper, we could easily clean up our somewhat dodgy drawing. There's a spare drawing and erasing tip in the package in case you wear one out.

For artists, the Pencil can be a great tool. When drawing in Paper – many of the Pencil's functions are limited to Paper – you can use the pencil to draw in different colours. The software is smart enough to know when you're using your finger as well. So, you can draw lines in different colours using the Pencil

and then smear them into each other with your finger to create some great effects.

We liked using the fountain pen tool with the Pencil. As we used different edges of the pencil we were able to change the thickness of the line as we wrote like a calligrapher's pen – nifty!

One of our concerns was losing the Pencil. Given our track record for leaving pens lying around the office or at home, we were impressed at the seemingly minor, but useful, fact that the casing on our Pencil was magnetic. So we were able to stick it to the edge of our iPad's Smart Cover so the two devices stayed together.

The Pencil's drawing and erasing functions are closely paired to the Paper app. So although you can use the Pencil to tap on icons, most of the drawing and erasing functions won't work outside Paper.

– ANTHONY CARUANA



53

www.fiftythree.com

PROS Comfortable; easy to use

CONS Function limited to Paper app

US\$50

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